Daily Report

Latin America

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Cuba

Imports From Former USSR Cut by 71 Percent

PA2801020392 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1829 GMT 27 Jan 92

[Text] Havana, 27 Jan (DPA)—Cuba's Soviet imports between 1990 and 1991 have been reduced by over 70 percent, that is, from $1.67 billion to $5.8 billion, according to statistics published today by the newspaper TRABAJADORES.

The Cuban Workers Federation noted that the value of products received from the Soviets as of December 1991 was $2.15 billion less than what had been agreed upon for that year. This represents a 56 percent decline.

In 1990, the former Soviet Union exported to Cuba merchandise valued at $5.82 billion. If this amount is compared to the value of merchandise received in 1991 ($1.67 billion), it means that the supply of Soviet products to the island was reduced by $4.1 billion—71 percent.

TRABAJADORES adds that the agreed upon volumes of food, raw materials, equipment, and spare parts only arrived in Cuba "in minimum quantities or not at all." The paper cites as an example the case of cattle feed—as of December, only 40 percent had been received.

The paper contends that the price of sugar—which in 1991 fell about $300 per ton—represents "the most traumatic factor in trade with the former USSR."

With regard to the price of fuel, the newspaper notes that it "is not set by the cost of production, but rather arbitrary, monopolistic prices are basically established by a consensus among the large producers."

In this regard, Carlos Lage, secretary of the Executive Committee of Council of Ministers, yesterday reported that the supply of crude oil from the former USSR has been cut by over 50 percent over the past three years—from 13 million tons in 1989 to between 4 and 6 million tons in 1992.

Further on Carlos Lage Statements on Economy

PA2701185892 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2054 GMT 26 Jan 92

[Text] Havana, 26 Jan (DPA)—Cuba has lost 50 percent of its buying power after the collapse of socialism in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, Carlos Lage, a member of the Politburo of the Communist Party of Cuba (PCC), has stated.

In an interview published on 26 January by the Sunday weekly JUVENTUD REBELDE, Lage also said the supply of oil obtained from the former USSR has been reduced from 13 million tons in 1989 to between 4 and 6 million tons in 1992.

Despite the serious economic problems the island faces, Cuba will not resort to the so-called shock policies, the member of the PCC Politburo and one of the youngest and most influential leaders of the Cuban leadership stated.

Lage criticized the shock policy applied in the former socialist countries of Europe and some Latin American nations. He noted that such policies "have caused many conflicts, have hurt consumers, and have caused pain and sorrow in millions of homes."

The Cuban leader said Fidel Castro's government will not abandon any citizen and will not close hospitals or schools to try to overcome economic limitations.

Lage said he trusts Cuba will overcome its difficulties with the development achieved over the past 30 years, the boost given to new sectors such as biotechnology and tourism, and "the organized and controlled use of foreign investment."

On this last subject, Lage said the Cuban Government is studying hundreds of foreign investment offers. He said Cuba offers investors "full guarantees" and advantages, such as freedom from the payment of commissions and freedom from the dangers of robbery, capital fraud, and social conflicts.

Ceremony Welcomes Ship Bringing French Donations

FL2701202792 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 27 Jan 92

[Text] An official welcoming for the Bahia de Cardenas, a vessel which brought a donation from France, will be held this afternoon at 1430 at the Margarita Iglesias breakwater at the Port of Havana. Port workers and members of the culture and health unions will be present at the public ceremony in show of appreciation. Officials of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of France [PCF], who accompanied the shipment, will also be present.

Jean-Paul (Jouri), member of the PCF, said this morning during a news conference that this gesture, the donation by the PCF and the Paris Book Union, shows that we can penetrate the U.S. blockade against Cuba.

Donations Arrive

PA2701223692 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0100 GMT 26 Jan 92

[Text] A donation from the French Communist Party and several French organizations arrived on 26 January at the port of Havana on board the Cuban freighter Bahia de Cardenas.

Mr. Dagoberto Gordis Cabrera, captain of the Mambisa Shipping Enterprise, pointed out to Radio Havana Cuba the great significance of the donation while the commercial blockade the United States has imposed on Cuba for more than three decades is being intensified.

Arrangements have been made for dock workers, as well as non dock workers, to do voluntary work unloading the 800 tons of raw material, medical instruments, and medications donated by the French.

Raul Castro Tours Matanzas Enterprise Projects

FL2701151792 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1332 GMT 27 Jan 92

[Text] Army General Raul Castro, second secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] and minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces [FAR], has visited defense and economic enterprise projects in Matanzas. During his tour, Raul was informed on the progress of the Unified Vigilance and Protection System in the province; a system aimed at preserving the achievements of the people.

The minister of the FAR visited the Reynol Garcia Brigade, one of the most outstanding among the eleven which compose the Martyrs of Goicuria Contingent, which constructs defense projects. Raul left them a congratulatory message, which he personally composed and wrote.

Prior to his visit, Army General Raul Castro toured the project site of the new provincial hospital of Matanzas, which will have 750 beds in its first stage, and the Noel Fernandez metallurgical enterprise.

During his visit in Matanzas, Army General Raul Castro received extensive information on the medical and technical work in the province and the effort that the 7,000 professionals have made to find solutions to problems. Furthermore, Raul was given details on all the agencies and enterprises that work in the self-sufficiency food development plan, and on the increase in collective plots and the family gardens modules.

At the Noel Fernandez Metalurgical Enterprise, the minister of the FAR was informed on the steps taken by the collective to prepare for the so-called zero option. Additionally, Army General Raul Castro was given details on the scientific research work carried out at the Camilo Cienfuegos Higher Institute of Agriculture and Industry in Matanzas.

Raul Castro, second secretary of the Central Committee of the PCC, said that the special period has shown us that there is still much more potential within us. He also said that we should not wait until the problems are on top of us; we should get ahead of them. Raul added: Someday we will make a modest monument in honor of the special period because it is what has sparked our imagination.

The minister of the FAR later traveled to Cardenas Municipality where he visited an exposition of agencies that carry out production for the special period: a bicycle factory, a cooperative council, as well as military installations were he observed the state of the weapons and their technology.

Raul also visited Jaguey Grande Municipality were he received information on the Victoria de Giron Plan. He also visited a nursery.

Wounded Combatant Elected Honorary Delegate

PA2701204192 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 26 Jan 92

[Report by Maricarmen Gonzalez]

[Text] The provincial committee of the UCJ [Union of Young Communists] for the City of Havana Province held a meeting on 25 January, very close to the place where three of our combatants were murdered. Combatant Rolando Perez Quintoza was elected honorary delegate to the Sixth UJC National Congress.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified UJC delegate] The delegates from Havana del Este would like to propose to the UJC National Committee that our nominee for the sixth congress, who was wounded during the events that took place at Tarara Naval Base and who is now fighting for his life, be elected as honorary delegate to the grand event of young Cubans. I am speaking about Noncommissioned Officer Rolando Perez Quintoza. [applause]

[Unidentified committee member] I believe this conference can consider the proposal approved and adopted here and now. Combatant Perez Quintoza is hereby direct honorary delegate to the Sixth UJC Congress. So you can consider it officially approved, not so much by the bureau but by you, as you have [words indistinct]. [applause] [end recording]

After this emotional moment, another 10 delegates were elected to represent the provincial committee at the grand youth event. No time was spent during the conference discussing how much the youngsters of this front can do to strengthen internal order. They preferred to have their highest leaders assign them specific missions to be carried out immediately.

General Romenico Sotomayor, chief of internal affairs in Havana, explained that the number of sector leaders was increased to 609 as there is a need for certain youngsters. On other fronts, such as public order, patrolling, prison, and rehabilitation of minors, the militants and young combatants were ordered to be more dedicated to these areas.

The occasion was also used to inform UJC First Secretary Roberto Robaina that the youths and workers of the City of Havana Province collected 50,300 pesos to help finance the Sixth UJC Congress.

After the meeting ended, the participants moved to the Tarara Naval Base, where a commemorative plaque was unveiled in honor of the three soldiers who were murdered on 9 January. The monument was placed in the same spot were the tragic episode took place. There we will be able to pay well-deserved homage to Yuriy, Rafael and Orosman, whose lives were cut short in the

prime or their youth. Youngsters just like them today established the first (BON) [expansion not known] UJC-PNR [National Revolutionary Police] companies. Students and workers make up these forces and in their free time, they will carry out various missions to support internal order.

Barbados

Diplomatic Relations Established With Guatemala

FL2701234392 Bridgetown CANA in English 2206 GMT 27 Jan 92

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Jan 27, CANA—Barbados announced on Monday it had established diplomatic relations with Guatemala. The signing, in New York, of a joint communique by the countries' United Nations ambassadors, gave effect to the decision.

The text of the communique read: "The Government of Barbados and the Government of the Republic of Guatemala, desirous of developing and strengthening their relations in the interest of peace and cooperation among peoples and, on the basis of mutual respect for independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity, as well as on the principles of non-intervention, of the non-use of force in international relations, of the peaceful settlement of disputes and of the other principles enshrined in the charter of the United Nations, have agreed to establish diplomatic relations between their two countries, at ambassadorial level, as of January 27, 1992."

Guatemala's territorial claim on Belize was for years the main impediment to diplomatic relations between Guatemala and Barbados. Guatemala last year recognized Belize's right to self-determination and agreed to pursue initiatives aimed at peacefully resolving the dispute.

The opening of diplomatic relations between Barbados and Guatemala coincides with efforts by the English-speaking Caribbean Community (Caricom) and Spanish-speaking Latin America to increase cooperation.

Haiti

Senate Suspends Talks, Names Arbitration Panel

FL2701194992 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1500 GMT 27 Jan 92

[Text] The talks between the parliament and the OAS over the political crisis have been suspended for the moment. Last Friday the Senate adopted an eight-day moratorium concerning the negotiations.

The Senate of the Republic designated three senators to be part of a parliamentary arbitration committee. That committee, which will include members from the lower chamber as well, has the responsibility of adopting and applying a solution suitable for the crisis. To succeed in doing that, the bicameral commission must meet with several sectors, including the executive, in order to reach an overall consensus on the political crisis.

The Senate committee is made up of Senators Rony Mondestin of the National Reconstruction Movement, Thomas Eddy Dupiton of the National Front for Change and Democracy, and Julio Larosiliere of the Assembly of Progressive National Democrats.

Government, Army Condemn 25 Jan MRN Attack

FL2701152192 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1130 GMT 27 Jan 92

[Communique issued by Interior and National Defense Ministry in Port-au-Prince; date not given]

[Text] The following is the position of the provisional government and the Haitian Army as to the attack that occurred in the premises of the National Reconstruction Movement [MRN] on Saturday 25 January.

A communique issued by the Interior and National Defense Ministry informs the public that on Saturday 25 January 1992, during a meeting which MRN leader Rene Theodore was holding in the premises of his party located in Rue Casseus in Pacot, Port-au-Prince, a group of agents from the metropolitan police raided the premises. Personalities that were attending that meeting were tortured while they were exercising their legitimate rights. There was an exchange of gunfire between the policemen and Mr. Yves Jean-Pierre [Theodore's body guard]. The latter was killed on the spot.

The provisional government, which wants to put an end to this outmoded behavior that the forces of order are applying, has ordered the commander in chief of the Haitian Armed Forces [FADH] to apply the following measures:

First, Corporal Demosthenes Jean-Frederic, FADH No. 43898, who shot several of the bystanders, as reported at the beginning of this communique, must be arrested and brought before the courts within the deadline provided for by the Constitution;

Second, the other members of that patrol must submit to the decisions of the public prosecutor to the concerned civil court. At the conclusion of the judicial inquiry, in other words when the judicial inquiry ends, these presumed guilty parties will be handed over to the law for the following offenses: intentional homicide, intentional assault, and injuries.

Finally, the provisional government strongly condemns this gratuitous attack and offers its sympathy to those who organized or attended the meeting and its condolences to the family of the deceased.

Army Orders Inquiry

FL2701153492 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1100 GMT 27 Jan 92

["Press release" issued by Army General Headquarters in Port-au-Prince; date not given]

[Text] On the afternoon of Saturday 25 January 1992, an unfortunate incident took place in the offices of the National Reconstruction Movement [MRN] in Rue Casseus where a meeting was being organized by political leaders and parties. According to information they had received, public security agents went to the scene for a routine check and control. Yves Jean-Pierre, the bodyguard of one of the leaders, was killed under circumstances not yet clarified and some of the political leaders were beaten.

As soon as he was informed, the commander in chief of the Army personally went to the scene to get an idea of the situation. He met with the leaders present and offered them his sympathies. During his conversation with them, he strongly condemned the act and proposed a meeting with the heads of parties in order to take security measures. On the other hand, he told the heads of parties to continue to meet while given them his assurances that they will always enjoy all the security they need.

The general headquarters deplores this incident and offers condolences to the parents of the deceased and to the MRN. The commander in chief has ordered the formation of an inquiry committee aimed at shedding light on this deplorable incident.

The FADH urges all sectors in the country to join together and unite—at this crucial moment of our history and our life as a country—and to believe that the police are cooperating with them.

This press release is signed by Adjutant General Carl Dorelien for the FADH General Headquarters.

Leader Gives Details

FL2701193592 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1400 GMT 27 Jan 92

[Text] I thought we were going to be executed, stated National Agricultural and Industrial Party leader Louis Dejoie, who suffered a slight injury to the forehead during the attack. He said: That is the first time since my return from exile in the United States in 1986 that I was faced with such a dramatic situation.

Louis Dejoie explained that he was kicked in the head when he was on the floor with other political leaders. The attackers insulted the group by firing shots in the air after they had shot Rene Theodore's bodyguard.

Trinidad and Tobago

Government To Seek Foreign Debt Rescheduling

FL2701230792 Bridgetown CANA in English 2112 GMT 27 Jan 92

[By Linda Hutchinson]

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, Jan 27, CANA—Trinidad and Tobago plans to seek a rescheduling of U.S. 100 million dollars in debt service payments falling due this year on its foreign debt, Finance Minister Wendell Mottley said Monday.

"We propose to refinance on relatively favourable terms approximately U.S. 100 million dollars of our external debt service payment falling due in 1992," Mottley told the Senate as debate began on the government's 1992 budget. Trinidad and Tobago's foreign debt stands at TT 2.7 billion dollars (one TT dollar = 23.5 cents U.S.).

Debt service obligations, representing both principal and interest on public and publicly-guaranteed debt, will amount to U.S. 612 million dollars this year, up from U.S. 423.2 million dollars in 1991. Arrangements with foreign governments under a U.S. 793 million dollar rescheduling programme covering 1988-1992 expired on March 31, 1991. Similar arrangements with commercial institutions and a syndicate of Japanese leasing companies will expire in August and December 1992 respectively.

These arrangements had provided for the rescheduling of approximately 54 per cent of the country's U.S. 446 million dollar debt with commercial institutions, 90 per cent of the U.S. 278 million dollars in official loans with the Paris Club, and an instalment sale agreement for 25 per cent or U.S. 69 million dollars of financial leases with the Japanese synidcate.

Mottley said servicing the foreign debt was not an easy task this year as there had been a decline in the Central Bank's foreign reserves. He added: "We cannot expect to have growth and the creation of permanent jobs unless there is confidence in the ready availability of foreign exchange to meet the needs of the economy, producers and consumers alike."

Mottley, who took office a month ago following a change of government in general elections, said it would not be easy to achieve an increase in foreign reserves unless the economy was deflated to depress demand for foreign exchange-consuming imports.

"However, I consider it a better alternative to attempt to fan whatever growth impulse in the economy rather than squeezing it to the point of decline," the finance minister added.

El Salvador

Armed Men Attack Two Army Positions

PA2701203392 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1902 GMT 27 Jan 92

[Text] San Salvador, 27 Jan (NOTIMEX)—Military sources reported that unidentified individuals attacked two Salvadoran Army positions in the country's northern and western regions on 24 January. No causalities were reported.

The Armed Forces Press Committee [Coprefa] has reported that on 24 January, armed elements fired for 15 minutes on 1st Infantry Brigade troops on security duty in the western department of La Libertad.

On 25 January, the Coprefa report notes, "people opposed to the peace process fired weapons to harass soldiers" stationed in the town of San Antonio Los Ranchos, 89 km north of San Salvador.

In connection with this incident, the guerrillas said on a Radio Farabundo Marti transmission that troops from Military Detachment No. 1, headquartered in the city of Chalatenango, entered a region where the rebel forces are stationed.

The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] has questioned the "warmongering and provocative attitude of Colonel Mariano Turcios [Chalatenango's military commander] at a moment when a cease-fire has been signed."

On 16 January, President Alfredo Cristiani and members of the FMLN General Command signed in Mexico the peace agreements that ended the war in the Central American country.

The intensity of the war in El Salvador has dropped notably since the end of 1991. It is expected that as of 1 February, the day when the cease-fire process begins, war will definitely disappear.

Report on Clashes Between Armed Forces, Rebels

PA2801030192

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on fighting between the Salvadoran Armed Forces and guerrillas of the National Army for Democracy, END, of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, FMLN, monitored between 10 and 21 January.

Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish at 2254 GMT on 10 January carries a 250-word story stating that, according to official reports, "at least 10 rebels were killed and 20 were wounded during clashes in Chalatenango Department on 10 January." The NOTIMEX report also states that according to Radio Farabundo Marti, the guerrillas inflicted nine casualties on the Army but did not mention casualties among its ranks.

San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish at 0300 GMT on 14 January carries a one-minute report stating that clashes on 11 and 12 January resulted in seven casualties in different parts of the country. The report adds that according to the Armed Forces Press Committee, Coprefa, two guerrillas were killed near the El Cerron Grande Dam in Chalatenango Department. Two soldiers and a rebel were also wounded in this action. In addition, two 5th Infantry Brigade soldiers were wounded when repelling an FMLN incursion in the town of Santa Clara, San Vicente Department.

San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish at 0300 GMT on 15 January carries a one-minute report stating that according to Coprefa, a civilian was killed and a soldier was wounded in Chalatenango and San Miguel Department, respectively, on 14 January. Coprefa reported that the civilian was killed by stepping on a mine left behind by guerrillas in San Gerardo. It also reported that a 4th Infantry Brigade soldier was wounded during an FMLN attack on the outskirts of the city of Chalatenango. In addition, 2d Infantry Brigade soldiers dismantled a guerrilla camp in Ciudad Arce, La Libertad Department, where war materiel was confiscated.

San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish at 0300 GMT on 22 January carries a one-minute report stating that according to Coprefa, unidentified individuals murdered Mauricio Reyes Estrada, member of a Civil Defense unit in Santa Maria Los Milagros Canton in Ilobasco. The unidentified individuals also kidnapped local Commander Salvador Rodriguez, who was later released. Coprefa added that after committing the crime, the unidentified individuals stole 2,000 colons, as well as two rifles and other war materiel.

FMLN's Villalobos on Transition to Peace

PA2801042892 Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 27 Jan 92 p 10

[Report on interview with Joaquin Villalobos, member of the General Command of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, FMLN, by Francisco Valeriano; date and place not given]

[Text] "Some members of the Salvadoran Armed Forces were arguing up to the last minute before the signing of the peace agreements that the fact that Honduras could be a potential enemy justified keeping a big army," Commander Joaquin Villalobos of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] has said.

When asked if, following the signing of the peace agreements with the Salvadoran Government in Mexico, the danger of Salvadoran expansionism in Honduras exists, he replied that if the agreements are kept and everything outlined in the negotiations is carried out, "Honduras can rest assured that any territorial dispute will be resolved through peaceful means."

He thought it would be very unlikely for a tense situation to develop between the two countries, and despite the

views of a sector within the Salvadoran Armed Forces, "we believe the new reality of peace will close the doors on that." Commenting on the signing of the peace agreements in Mexico, Villalobos stressed that a highly favorable situation has been established in El Salvador, because the people and political parties sense the recovery and believe the agreements will work.

He added that a sense of reconciliation and confidence and the signs of the strength of civil society are at a work in his country, "and though the Army may oppose it, I believe conditions at home and abroad will force it to comply with the agreements."

On the violent deaths of two Salvadoran police officers following the signing of the agreements, Commander Villalobos said that the incident could stem from problems within the military. He added that in the weeks prior to the negotiations, the FMLN learned that there were very strong conflicts within the Armed Forces.

"There are people in the Army who have a positive attitude toward the negotiations, but there are others who do not want the agreements to take hold; I can assure you that the FMLN has nothing to do with any of it," he said referring to the crimes.

He said that the FMLN is confident there will not be a "dirty war," which would mar the agreements. He stressed that the rebels also feel confident about the series of mechanisms that have been created as guarantees to keep the agreements and to protect their own lives, although they do not believe that the "death squads will cease to be active."

"The extreme right in El Salvador must keep in mind that it will not only feel strong pressure from abroad and the great political strength of civilian society, but there will also be a new professional police force that will not allow it to act with impunity. In addition, there is the Truth Commission that will investigate crimes.

Commander Villalobos said the guerrillas always supported reaching the agreements. "Since the negotiations began, the FMLN has presented a rather coherent stance, and we will fully abide by the agreements," he stated. Referring to U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's initiative for Cuba to return to the democratic system, Villalobos felt that an easing of tension between the United States and Cuba would be highly positive, but "it is up the Cuban people to decide."

In his opinion, with the settlement of the Salvadoran conflict, which had a Cuban connection, the opportunity has arisen for detente to exist based on the pacification of Central America.

He also believed that the transition to peace in his country would not be easy. Considering that it took 20 years of armed struggle, 11 years of open warfare, and 2 years of negotiations, "it is not going to be easy for the agreements to go from being a piece of paper to being a reality," he stated.

He did think, however, that the framework is being created so a lasting peace will be feasible, "and those who are trying to hamper its realization have very little room to maneuver."

He denied that the United States constitutes an obstacle to achieving peace, "because they have had a highly positive stance these past few months, making a very good sprint [preceding word in English] since the last round in New York related to the negotiations," the FMLN commander recalled.

Asked if the FMLN will hand over its weapons or hide them, as other guerrilla groups have done, he reiterated that the rebels are ready to comply with the agreements, adding that the agreements allow the FMLN some safety. Since the cease-fire will last nine months, the FMLN is entitled to keep its weapons during this period. He noted the rebels have a safety device abroad and one at home; namely, the Truth Commission. He added: "We also have our own safety device, the nine-month period while the cease-fire is in force."

Talking about the downing of a Honduran helicopter along the border on 19 December when the rebels reportedly killed some crew members, Villalobos admitted that the FMLN bears the responsibility "because it was an unfortunate military incident." On the allegation that the Honduran officers were executed, he replied: "I can assure you that did not happen. In fact, the UN Observers for El Salvador were called in shortly afterward, and there were some witnesses."

He noted that the incident took place while a truce was in effect, when the human rights mechanisms were functioning in El Salvador. He stressed that the helicopter was attacked in a combat zone, "in an area 14 km inside our border, and it was logical for confusion to set in."

Guatemala

U.S. Citizen Reportedly Shot To Death 26 Jan

PA2701194592 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1923 GMT 27 Jan 92

[Text] Guatemala City, 27 Jan (ACAN-EFE)—The police have reported that John Meyers, 46, a U.S. tourist, died on the evening of 26 January in Solola in the southeastern part of the country. He was shot by a group of unidentified individuals who stopped him along with his wife.

The American citizen was vacationing in the country. As he was leaving Solola with his wife, Beverly, he was attacked by several men, according to the police. The criminals fired several shots at the couple and hit Meyers in the chest. The tourist's wife was unable to find a hospital for her husband, and he died from his wounds.

The police reported that the couple are from North Carolina. So far, it is not known whether they were

attacked by common criminals or by some of the guerrillas who operate in Solola.

Government Talks With URNG 'Up in the Air'

PA2801031892 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 25 Jan 92 p 6

[Article by Carlos Garcia Urrea]

[Text] Talks between the government and the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity [URNG] currently under way in Mexico are virtually up in the air and nothing positive is expected, sources close to President Jorge Serrano told EL GRAFICO.

It is understood that the delegation headed by Manuel Eduardo Conde only went to Mexico to honor conciliator Monsignor Rodolfo Quezada Toruno's invitation, knowing that it would be an unproductive round of talks with no results in sight.

The sources told EL GRAFICO that the government knows that the URNG currently does not want to make any decision on the peace process in Guatemala given that on 27 January, the 48th meeting of the UN Human Rights Commission will be initiated in Geneva, Switzerland.

The URNG, the sources said, expect that at this meeting a resolution will be issued denouncing Guatemala as a nation that violates human rights, thereby giving the rebels a stronger position in future talks. If this resolution is issued—as the URNG expects—it would then have an upper hand in its talks with the government delegation.

This is why, the sources added, the government does not expect anything positive to come out of the current round of talks in Mexico, because the URNG wants to delay any possible agreement. The sources added that it is known that in Europe a negative campaign has been waged against Guatemala by some organizations seeking a resolution against Guatemala on the human rights issue.

To conclude, the sources said that it would not be surprising if the conciliator, as well as the members of the National Reconciliation Commission and the government delegation, come back from Mexico "empty handed," as this is precisely the URNG's current objective.

Delegate, Mediator Comment

PA2801034692 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 0330 GMT 27 Jan 92

[Text] Returning to the country, official delegation members said the government believes the recently ended meeting with the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity [URNG] in the Mexican capital made positive progress. The mission headed by Manuel Conde Orellana returned on 26 January after a number of meetings that began on 23 January. Mediator Monsignor Rodolfo Quezada Toruno also returned to Guatemala.

Among the agreements reportedly reached are the abolition of forceful military recruitment, neutralization of paramilitary groups, and the payment of compensation to victims of violence.

Msgr. Quezada Toruno said he met on six occasions with URNG commanders in the past six months:

[Begin Quezada recording] As mediator I am pleased with the results, because there has been positive progress in the human rights area. We have not yet reached a comprehensive agreement on this very important issue, but we agreed on some points. I cannot reveal details, but there was an agreement on military conscription. It was agreed that the military should not violate human rights and that it should be just and nondiscriminatory. The government already committed itself to a new military service law.

We also agreed to fight against any form of illegal security forces that may arise. We reached another important agreement on protection for human rights activists or organizations and on compensation or aid for victims of human rights violations.

These points of agreement, added to those reached in December, will advance the process. I believe that although there are differences on other points, which are being negotiated, the talks achieved positive progress that clearly shows the process is not stalemated. We would like it to move faster, but the very importance of the issue has prompted us to move forward gradually.

I wish to voice my gratitude to the Mexican Government for welcoming us again. Mexican Foreign Relations and Government Secretariat officials have always been discreet and respectful. I wish to say that this meeting was made public—when it was supposed to be private—and thus enjoyed press coverage that the important December meeting did not. As mediator I want the process to advance, even without publicity. [end recording]

The mediator refused to give details on the points that were advanced during the meetings. Meanwhile, government delegation leader Manuel Conde said the two parties sent small delegations to the recent meeting:

[Begin recording] [Conde] The government delegation feels that each meeting has its own characteristics. At each meeting one of the parties will often maintain a position which, without being inflexible, is consistent with certain basic principles of this negotiation.

On behalf of the government delegation, which participated with a small group at the negotiating table, I can say the URNG has shown a consistent political determination. The two commanders who attended, Moran and Monsanto, showed a great amount of maturity and goodwill. We even pointed this out at the negotiating table to the mediator and observer. We believe we made very positive and significant progress at this meeting, especially on the topics at hand.

[Unidentified reporter] In Mexico the Army handed you [words indistinct] on the human rights issue. Was this discussed with the commanders?

[Conde] As the government delegation, we were informed of this—as is often the case—when we were abroad. That issue was never brought up at the negotiating table. [end recording]

Honduras

Attack on Former President's Residence Reported

PA2701174992 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1418 GMT 27 Jan 92

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 27 Jan (ACAN-EFE)—The Honduran police are investigating the attack carried out early on the morning of 26 January on the residence of former President Roberto Suazo Cordova (1982-1986). No one was injured in the attack.

On 27 January, a police department spokesman reported that unidentified men in a vehicle fired approximately 50 bullets of various calibers during the attack. The bullets hit an automobile belonging to one of Suazo Cordova's sons, as well as the residence's front porch.

The attackers used M-16, AK-47, and FAL rifles and 9-mm pistols. Suazo Cordova's two sons and a guard were inside the residence. The former president lives in La Paz, his hometown, in the central region, where Suazo Cordova tends to his farm.

No group has claimed responsibility for the attack on the residence of the Honduran former chief of state, who has been accused by humanitarian organizations of being responsible for the fate of several people who were declared missing during his Liberal Party administration.

Nicaragua

Demobilization of Recompas, Recontras Continues

PA2401184092 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 22 Jan 92 pp 1, 16

[Text] Government Minister Carlos Hurtado headed a delegation that traveled to Rama and Nueva Guinea in the country's central region on 22 January to continue the recontra and recompa disarmament process that has been accelerated since it began on 21 January in Tamatoya.

A spokesman at the Government Ministry Public Relations Department announced that "approximately 60 recompas in Rama and an undetermined number of recontras in Nueva Guinea will be disarmed."

Nicaraguan Institute of Municipal Development representatives and Jaime Icabalceta, construction and transportation minister, among others, were part of the government commission that traveled to El Rama and Nueva Guinea on 22 January.

The government commission is expected to meet with the mayors in that region to inform them about the expedited recontra and recompa disarmament process, which will bring tranquility to the country's northern and central regions.

Rama Mayor Alejandro Balmaceda last week expressed his fear that recontras and recompas could turn to violence. He urged the government to find solutions to their demands and to accelerate their disarmament.

Mayor Balmaceda, who will probably meet with Minister Hurtado on 22 January, said on 21 January that disarmament is necessary because "many people in this area are hoiding up peasants and vehicles on the roads."

Amid the expected climate of mistrust, 90 recompas and 70 recontras were demobilized on 21 January and surrendered their weapons in Tamatoya, 13 km from Jinotega.

Approximately 1,200 rebels accounted for so far will demobilize on 25 January and 3 February.

With great enthusiasm, 160 demobilized contras and recompas delivered their rifles to the Special Disarmament Brigade at 1350 on 21 January.

The ceremony was headed by Government Minister Carlos Hurtado and civilian and military authorities of Region Six.

Hurtado announced the creation of a government team made up of representatives from various institutions that will be responsible for solving economic and security problems and will guarantee compliance with the agreements without any delay.

Seventy recontras will join the National Police in various war zones, while 20 recompas were enlisted in the same military institution, and 70 in the army.

Government Minister Hurtado clarified that there is only one National Police, and the new officers are under its jurisdiction and command.

The rebels were very enthusiastic and naturally nervous, knowing that they were leaving their undercover lives to participate in activities to serve society.

Also present at the ceremony were the main leaders of the various commissions for verification and follow-up: the OAS International Commission of Support and Verification, representatives of Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo, and the Special Disarmament Brigade, which received and burned 160 rifles.

Recompas and recontras gathered at the same base in Tamatoya in the early hours of 21 January, showing mutual respect.

The recompas were the first ones to line up in front of the platform for this momentous ceremony. They were followed by the recontras and Jaime Zeledon, "Bolivar," the new police commander in Jinotega, who asked his

men and the recompas headed by "William" [Leonel Martinez] to unload their rifles. The order was obeyed without any problem.

The first ones to speak were "Bolivar" and "William," who urged their men to work for peace and reconciliation and to guarantee their own safety, as well as the lives of all Nicaraguans.

They also committed themselves to act as mediators to persuade those who have not yet joined the peace process.

"We are giving up our weapons and will never again pick up our rifles, said Jaime Zeledon ("Bolivar").

"We have come here to give our small contribution to peace," Leonel Martinez ("William") stressed.

Despite the conciliatory speeches, the final agreements are still being discussed by which both groups will accept the appointment of rebel leaders as police commanders in various war zones.

Hurtado Comments

PA2401205092 Managua Sistema Nacional de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 24 Jan 92

[Report by Roger Oliva]

[Text] After living several years in a state of war, residents of Nueva Guinea, 300 km from Managua, have witnessed the first steps in the total pacification of that area. They witnessed the disarmament of 60 recompas, who took up arms for more than three years.

Government Minister Carlos Hurtado expressed his determination and resolve to move toward the total disarmament supported by the government.

On 23 January, Nueva Guinea became the center of attention of peace, when the recompas' rifles were destroyed in the local square. The years of war were ended, and the residents experienced the beginning of a definitive pacification that will bring stability and jobs. The government's call to disarm the recompas was heard this time, and the recompas of the Benjamin Zeledon Southern Front were the key players in the achievement of peace in Region Five.

[Begin Commander Bolivar, Jaime Zeledon, recording] We have been successful in securing a government pledge to guarantee and protect the physical integrity of the Nicaraguan family, taking into consideration that in this country there should be no irregular force. Such forces are detrimental to the economy and tranquility of peasants and the general population. [end recording]

Prior to the disarmament, Minister Hurtado signed accords with the former recompas, who will now join the population in rebuilding the country.

[Begin Joaquin Lobo, Government Ministry delegate in Region 5, recording] The government pledges to guarantee and protect the physical integrity of the demobilized Benjamin Zeledon Southern Front. The government and the Benjamin Zeledon Southern Front agree that during the period between their disarmament and that of the forces of Oscar [Erwin Barberena], 20 of them will be protected by the Sandinist People's Army in Los Pintos Base.

The government pledges to provide food for a three-month period for all the demobilized forces from the Benjamin Zeledon Southern Front, in accordance with the submitted list. [end recording]

The government minister said the recompas who refused to lay down their weapons on 3 February will be fought. In this sector, there are still armed groups.

[Begin Hurtado recording] From 3 February on, although we will always maintain in principle the position of favoring negotiations and dialogue, we will come down hard on individuals, armed groups, and criminals who persist with their activities. We will begin to focus on the Armed Forces and its role in this problem.

What the president has said on legality and order will be enforced. [end recording]

Recompas Surrender Weapons

PA2401221392 Managua Radio Catolica in Spanish 1100 GMT 24 Jan 92

[Report by Dr. Agustin Diaz Morales]

[Text] Police officials accompanied by Government Ministry authorities and a few journalists have traveled to three farms, one of which is owned by Mr. Gustavo Arguello, in which 200 recompas were using weapons to prevent the entry of unauthorized persons.

A meeting held by the aforementioned authorities with the recompas ended with an agreement that the recompas will abandon the area and surrender their weapons. The recompas said they will meet with the rest of their comrades in El Dorado, Jinotega Department to wait for the necessary contacts with the government so they can return to civilian life.

The recompas also said they will abandon the farms located in La Paz Centro Municipality and added that 750 comrades will remain in the El Dorado area during the negotiations with the government, which are expected to continue on 25 January.

Demobilization in Jinotega

PA2701025692 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 26 Jan 92

[Text] The largest demobilization of recontras and recompas took place on 25 January in El Dorado, north of Jinotega, where 286 rebels surrendered their weapons

after the government promised to protect their lives and give them social and financial benefits.

A total of 155 recompas and 131 recontras simultaneously laid down their weapons before Government Minister Carlos Hurtado and Santiago Murray, representative of the OAS International Commission of Support and Verification.

Recompa Commander Urges Recontras To Demobilize

PA2501230392 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 24 Jan 92 pp 1, 7

[Article by Special Correspondent Guillermo Cortez Dominguez]

[Excerpts] Tomatoya, Jinotega Department—Recompa Commander "Moises" [Arturo Mairena] did not help clarify the mystery surrounding the rearmed Sandinists because he, chief of staff of the recompas operating in the northern part of the country, can keep a secret.

He did not deny, however, that he has recontra Commander "Indomable" [Jose Angel Moran Flores] in his sights. Commander "Moises" says that Indomable, together with recontras "Estrella," "Somotillo," and "Flaco" were responsible for the horrible death of Captain Luis Meza. [passage omitted]

"Moises," who confirmed that "Indomable" has used a long knife in several murders, sent him a threatening message saying: "You have an outstanding debt with us, and you will have to pay that debt some day."

"Moises" will respect "Indomable's" life if he demobilizes. "As a movement, we will respect you if you demobilize, although I cannot say what the relatives of the people you have murdered might do."

The MADNA [expansion unknown] "Danto 91" is made up of peasants, with a few exceptions. "We rearmed ourselves because of the lack of security for our lives and property," said "Moises" in summarizing the reason for the existence of the recompa movement. Now, several months later, after the first contingent of recompas has demobilized, he says that rearming was worth their time because "there have been no more occupations of land or murdered off-duty officers, although some peasants have been murdered." [passage omitted]

Moises was angry in Tomatoya because, in their first group to be demobilized, the recontras presented many young men "they recruited off the streets." They also failed to turn in all their weapons. "They were carrying M-79's and RPG-2's, and they are not turning them in. They only brought old rifles and hid the rest of the weapons."

Although he believes the start of the demobilization is positive, he will not be satisfied until "Indomable," "Guapote," "Camaneca," "Chele-Estrella" or "Rafael-Chele," and "Dimas Tigrillo" demobilize. Those recontras lead approximately 500 heavily armed men.

They Demand The Return of the Cooperatives

Despite the fact that 500 men represent a military force, "Moises" says "they are not dangerous to us." His Capt. Luis Meza Column has been involved in 16 clashes; sustained three casualties, one dead and two wounded; and has killed 35 recontras and wounded 40 others.

"Moises" explains that the recompas' main demands are that lands forcefully taken by the recontras from 12 cooperatives in Yali and others in Jinotega be returned; that other lands be legalized; that financing be provided for farming, housing, health, and education; and that help be given to the war disabled.

The recompa military leader denies that the Sandinist People's Army [EPS] is supplying them with weapons and ammunition. "When the contras demobilized, they left their caches behind. We did the same when we were discharged from the Army. We left our caches, and that is where we get our supplies." [passage omitted]

Recontras Attack Wapi

The recontras lead by "Oscar" [Erwin Barbarena], the recompas' number one enemy, are a few kilometers south of Nueva Guinea.

Most of the peasants of the Benjamin Zeledon Southern Front plan to rearm themselves if "Oscar" or "Najo" does not demobilize by 3 February, but "Leo" says they will not. He says they will let the Army carry out that task.

During the negotiations, the government minister said that all those who do not demobilize by 3 February will be persecuted by the combined forces of the EPS and the National Police. [passage omitted]

Recontra Leader Agrees To Disarm on 10 February

PA2501010992 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2255 GMT 24 Jan 92

[Text] Managua, 24 Jan (ACAN-EFE)—The Nicaraguan Government and "recontra" leader Jose Angel Moran, alias El Indomable, agreed on 24 January that the armed group will disarm on 10 February in Jinotega, 161 km north of Managua.

Following four hours of negotiations, Nicaraguan Government Minister Carlos Hurado and "El Indomable" signed an agreement which also states that—effective 24 January—the "recontras" will relocate to two enclaves known as "El Mojon" and "Las Colinas" in northern Jinotega Department.

Monsignor Edy Montenegro, personal representative of Managua Archbishop Cardonal Miguel Obando y Bravo, added that the Special Disarmament Brigade (BED) will be in charge of protecting the former contras, who will remain in the enclaves until the disarmament date.

Approximately 215 rearmed former contras or "recontras" and armed Sandinists or "recompas" have turned in their rifles since 21 January as part of the country's disarmament process.

Government, Bus Drivers Reach Settlement

PA2701185592 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 25 Jan 92 pp 1,8

[Report by Carlos Garcia Castillo]

[Text] Urban transportation service was normalized on 24 January after a "satisfactory" agreement was reached by Enabus [National Bus Enterprise] workers and Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo, thus ending a four-day strike. The agreement ended the conflict that paralyzed 11 bus routes and caused approximately half a million cordobas in loses to the enterprise.

At approximately 1700, the Enabus drivers started the buses surrounding the Construction and Transportation Ministry and then detonated homemade mortars as a sign they accepted the agreement reached with the government—thus allowing the workers to receive on 30 January the buses donated by Japan.

The 29 vehicles—nine arrived in the country while the strike was under way—will be delivered to Enabus management following the presentation of a list of mechanics and drivers who will operate the units and who must guarantee their operation in optimum conditions.

Roberto Gonzalez, secretary general of the Parralet Vallejos Union, held an improvised assembly with his coworkers in front of the National Stadium. He told them that Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo had "sent a message" to the Enabus workers: Do not worry because the enterprise will not disappear; on the contrary, it will continue to be "state owned."

The announcement provoked exclamations of joy among the workers, and Gonzalez said the government has ordered more units. Enabus will receive 200 new buses this year.

The strike left more than 300,000 people without transportation for four days. It started following a report that 20 buses donated by the Japanese Government to Enabus would be diverted to the private sector. The workers accused Jaime Icabalceta, construction and transportation minister, of being behind this maneuver.

Panama

Ford Says Economic Plan To Continue

PA2701220592 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 27 Jan 92 p 1

[Text] Vice President Guillermo Ford says the payment of 650 million balboas toward late interest due on the debt with the international financial institutions [IFI's] will give Panama an international image of responsibility and seriousness.

Asked about the commitment Panama is about to pay, Ford took advantage of the occasion to remind the Panamanian people that this government is paying a debt it did not generate. However, since Panama is a responsible country, every Panamanian must make this sacrifice to normalize its relations.

Regarding the law to privatize state institutions and property, which has not yet been approved by the Legislative Assembly, he said it is part of the legal framework and very important for Panama. He also said that arrangements have been made with the IFI's to postpone the law's approval until late April.

Toward this end, he said that he will work with all the legislative factions to ensure the law's promulgation within the established deadline.

Meanwhile, Agricultural Development Minister Cesar Pereira said that "if we do not modernize farming and cattle breeding, the gap that will exist between the farming sector and the rest of the Panamanian economy will be so vast that it will be unbridgeable."

The ranking official's remarks came after the majority Christian Democratic Party (PDC) demanded that the government suspend it's economic plan in those areas that involve the farming sector, because the plan would wipe out farmers and cattle breeders, he added.

According to Pereira, we must bear in mind that we are not a separate planet; we must compete and win within the Central American market.

"If we do not modernize the farming sector, things will get worse," Pereira said.

In addition to the PDC, farmers in Chiriqui and Las Tablas have also demanded the suspension of the economic plan for the farming sector, but Planning Minister Guillermo Ford says the program's implementation will not be stopped.

Nevertheless, according to Pereira, the farming sector "is strong, profitable, and earning money. It needs help, but it is untrue that it is worse off than other sectors of the national economy."

The government's economic plan has been harshly criticized by businessmen, the opposition, and labor sectors, who assert that it will increase unemployment in Panama. According to official figures, 130,000 Panamanians are currently unemployed, although it has been asserted unofficially that over 250,000 Panamanians are unemployed.

Once Panama normalizes its credit relations with the IFI's, the Social Emergency Fund (FES) expects to receive over $100 million in social compensation by virtue of the structural adjustments, said Aurelio Barria.

Barria, director of the FES, said his organization has been operated since its inception by the executive branch with $20 million taken from funds granted by the International Development Agency (AID).

Nevertheless, in the beginning, the organization was to receive over $100 million from international credit organizations.

The money was to be issued by the World Bank, the IMF, or the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) as a form of social compensation for the structural adjustment plan (privatization, reduction in force, closure of companies, among others).

Barria stressed that FES access to funds will depend on the agreement Panama reaches with the IFI's, because these are the organizations that usually offer social compensation funds.

Government Renegotiating Private Foreign Debt

PA2801043892 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 27 Jan 92

[Text] The government has launched its strategy to renegotiate the private foreign debt, and consulting firms have begun to brief government officials. The consulting firm Development Technologies [name indistinct] International Corporation this morning briefed high government officials on experiences in foreign debt payment. The subject matter dealt with the analysis and strategy of renegotiating the foreign debt. We have here Bolivar Pariente, deputy planning and economy minister .

[Begin recording] [Pariente] We have been working on this program for some time now thanks to AID [Agency for International Development] funding, recommendations, and contributions.

[Unidentified reporter] Is this consulting firm also establishing guidelines for the payment of the Panamanian debt?

[Pariente] Yes, it is establishing guidelines. We have been working concurrently with the agreements reached with the international financial institutions [IFI's]. We are also working on another large task—the renegotiation of Panama's public foreign debt. We did not contract this debt, but, in a responsible fashion, we have made a commitment to pay it. [end recording]

Regarding the same issue, Deputy Comptroller General Jose Chen Barria reiterated the need for the nation to embark on negotiations.

[Begin Barria recording] Although the current national budget does not have the resources to pay the debt to the private banks, we must engage in a process of renegotiation after relations with the IFI's return to normal. As a rule, this is not a quick process. This process can take from nine to 12 months, given all the alternatives that come up in negotiating a debt with private banks. [end recording]

IRHE Director on Publishing House Attack

PA2701233092 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 27 Jan 92 p 1

[Text] In statements to EL PANAMA AMERICA on 26 January, Dr. Gonzalo Cordoba, director general of the Institute of Hydraulic Resources and Electrification (IRHE), flatly denied that the damage caused to EPASA [EL PANAMA AMERICA Publishing House] resulted from an electrical defect.

Cordoba stressed that the explosion that caused the fire took place at the EPASA installations.

Twenty-seven hours after the alleged terrorist attack destroyed part of the EPASA installations, no public security official had information on those responsible for the attack.

On 26 January, the Judicial Technical Police (PTJ) were waiting for more information on the incident to begin the necessary investigation, it was reported.

Because of the damage caused to the EPASA installations, the edition which is in your hands and yesterday's edition were printed with facilities of our colleague newspaper LA PRENSA.

The flames almost completely destroyed the computer and accounting offices. In addition, the fire extensively damaged the EPASA roof.

On 26 January, EPASA personnel began to remove the debris. For more than 10 hours the teams carried cleaned the areas most affected by the fire.

EPASA, which publishes the newspapers EL PANAMA AMERICA and CRITICA LIBRE, currently has no electricity or working telephone lines.

When this report went to press, there was no estimate of the damage caused to the installations of the publishing house by a terrorist attack, which was intended to silence that voice of a free media.

Upon learning of this tragic incident, all Panamanians voiced their condemnation of such an act.

Various Sectors Protest

PA2801000392

[Editorial Report] Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish on 27 January carries four articles on the 25 January attack on the EL PANAMA AMERICA S.A. [EPASA] publishing house. A 200-word report on page 1 contains the text of a letter sent by Evelio Fabroni, the OAS representative in Panama, to EPASA's president. The letter condemns the attack and praises the newspaper's efforts not to be silenced.

On page 2, a 335-word report on a communique issued by the Nationalist Liberal Republican Movement Party [MOLIRENA] is published. The communique strongly condemns the attack. According to the report, the MOLIRENA communique states its all-out support for President Endara's administration and requests that the guilty be found and punished accordingly.

A 700-word communique issued by the Union of Journalists and Radio, Television, and Entertainment Workers of Panama protests the terrorist attack on the publishing house.

Page 5 carries a letter sent by LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA's chief editor to EPASA protesting the attack and pledging to join efforts to put a halt to terrorism.

Argentina

Nuclear Shipment to Iran Reportedly 'Suspended'

PY2701140092 Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 26 Jan 92 p 5

[Text] Argentina "has suspended" a nuclear shipment to the Islamic Republic of Iran because of its "new policy" on the export of advanced technologies and because of the "concern" the commercial operation created in the United States and other Western powers.

Thomas Bush, the human resources manager of the state-owned enterprise Applied Research Institute [INVAP], has stated that this was the first shipment provided for in a $18 million contract signed between INVAP and the Iranian Government.

Bush, who is from Rio Negro Province and a National Commission for Atomic Energy member, made it clear that the contract "has not been canceled."

Foreign Relations Under Secretary Juan Carlos Olima on the night of 26 January confirmed to CLARIN that on 22 January he met with Rio Negro Province Governor Horacio Massaccesi in Buenos Aires to tell him that the government has decided to "review all contracts" signed by INVAP with foreign countries. Olima denied that U.S. pressures prompted the government to make this decision.

Diplomatic sources consulted by CLARIN, however, confirmed the existence of U.S. pressure to suspend this advanced technology operation with a country that Washington regards as a threat to the Middle East's security.

This is the second case with similar characteristics to the one involving the dismantling of the Condor-2 missile after Washington's pressure against the proliferation of missile production.

Olima said that the analysis of this matter will end in the next 40 days, when the final decision on whether to authorize the "nuclear shipment," will be made. He refused to reveal the content of the nuclear shipment, but INVAP personnel stated that it includes machine tools for nuclear power plants.

He explained that Argentina's "new nuclear policy" envisions the export of this type of technology under the control of the International Atomic Energy Agency to those countries that also accept those checks known as "safeguards" in technical terms.

INVAP defended itself by stating that the shipment "does not include a reactor or heavy water," which are two of the major elements for the eventual construction of an atomic bomb.

Because of disagreements between Rio Negro Province and the government on this issue, the Foreign Ministry reportedly ordered the Argentine Embassy in Iran to suspend the concessions of visa requests by Iranian experts who, according to the contract, were about to visit Rio Negro to take a series of courses on the handling of the machines.

Peru's Initiative With Bolivia, Ecuador Praised

PY2701185992 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1308 GMT 27 Jan 92

[Text] Buenos Aires, 27 Jan (TELAM)—The Argentine Government has expressed "renewed optimism" following the recent meetings that Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori held with Ecuadoran President Rodrigo Borja and with Bolivian President Jaime Paz Zamora. The Argentine Government states: "This initiative seeks to establish new channels through which to establish a definite peace in the region."

The Foreign Ministry communique notes: "All initiatives by our sister Latin American nations toward this objective and that seek to enhance greater bilateral and multilateral integration are enthusiastically welcomed by Argentina because they are positive signs that mark a promising future for our countries."

It adds: "The Argentine Government expresses its firm willingness to support these efforts and to assist our sister nations to achieve peace and regional integration."

Bolivia

Paz: Ilo Agreement Removes Peru's 'Passiveness'

PY2501194292 La Paz Radio Fides Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 25 Jan 92

[Text] During a joint news conference on 24 January in Ilo, Peru, with his Peruvian counterpart, Alberto Fujimori, Bolivian President Jaime Paz Zamora asserted that, with this initiative, Peru has pulled out of a traditional passiveness regarding Bolivia's landlocked situation.

Fujimori, in turn, pointed out the need to always seek, respecting international treaties, the most pragmatic, the most creative possible solutions that must be free of demagoguery, of words, which has never helped Peru or Bolivia.

In addressing President Paz, Fujimori said bold solutions must be found to solve controversies. Fujimori was thus referring to his government's decision to grant Ecuador a corridor in the Amazon.

Politicians Praise Agreement

PY2501200892 La Paz Radio Fides Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 25 Jan 92

[Text] [monitored in progress] ... Nationalist Democratic Action Deputy Walter Alarcon.

[Begin Alarcon recording] The Bolivian people should feel happy on this day, 24 January, on which an agreement was signed with Peru, an agreement that has an historic meaning for our country. A slogan we have repeated for many years is: The sea belongs to us; it is our duty to recover it. Peru now is giving us a chance to show the world that we have a right to an outlet to the sea. [end recording]

Conscience of the fatherland, Deputy Gonzalo Ruiz, said it was a great initiative by President Jaime Paz Zamora.

[Begin Ruiz recording] It is an historic event. I hope some people in the country will not start saying we must take advantage of this agreement to negotiate with Chile. I hope there will be nothing of the sort because what we need to do with our Peruvian [as heard] brothers is to treat them as such, and the agreement reached with Peru over the Port of Ilo might remove the geopolitical pressure in northern Chile. I think we could even make more progress. The Patacamaya-(Santo Canares) route would be much cheaper. [end recording]

We asked Senator Ciro Humboldt Barrera the Nationalist Revolutionary Movement's opinion on this event.

[Begin Humboldt recording] I believe that Ilo will greatly lighten Bolivia's burden [words indistinct] President Fujimori is a noble and generous person. [passage indistinct] [end recording]

The Bolivian Labor Federation [COB] has stated that the mere fact that Bolivia once again has an outlet to the sea means snatching the commercial cornucopia away from the Chileans.

COB Permanent Secretary (Oscar Iturbi) commented:

[Begin recording] It is an alternative for the Bolivian people because for the past century we have depended on the Chilean ports that have, in a capricious manner, implemented a series of taxes to pass through our own territory, which is a paradox.

Let us hope the government will set up the necessary communications facilities so that we can use this port that Peru has so generously granted Bolivia. [end recording]

Brazil

Itamaraty: Plane 'Machine-Gunned' in Venezuela

PY2701235592 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2200 GMT 27 Jan 92

[Text] For the first time, Itamaraty has admitted that the Brazilian gold miners' plane was really machine-gunned in Venezuela. The exclusive images that were broadcast by this newscast showing the plane riddled with bullets helped Itamaraty reach this conclusion.

Itamaraty already knows that it will not be easy to examine the plane. To do that, experts will have to walk at least three days through the jungle and go up and down many mountains. We visited the site where the plane crashed last week and could not find a clearing nearby for a plane or helicopter to land. Despite all that, Itamaraty asserted today that they will request that the plane be examined, primarily because the exclusive images showed that the fuselage had more than 30 bullet holes. This proves that the plane was machine-gunned.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified Itamaraty spokesman] The Brazilian plane may have been hit accidentally by soldiers or other members of the Venezuelan forces. I would like to emphasize that this is not a state versus state conflict. We will verify an individual deed involving, I imagine, a small group of people.

[Federal Police Director Romeu Tuma] The television images and photographs received by the Federal Police leave no room for doubt. The photographs have been added to the investigation file. [end recording]

The gates of the Venezuelan Embassy are closed to journalists, but Ambassador Sebastian Alegretti was found at an Itamaraty meeting during which the South American ambassadors received invitations to Eco-92 [UN Conference on Environment and Development]. The Venezuelan ambassador said that he had seen the Rede Globo Television program and that he had nothing to say about it.

[Begin Alegretti recording] I saw your reportage too. I have nothing to say about it. [end recording]

In two days, the Venezuelan Government will probably confirm the date when the bodies of the pilot and a gold miner, who were buried in Venezuelan territory, will be placed at the disposal of Brazilian authorities.

Meanwhile, a group of deputies is organizing a Commission for Congressional Investigation to investigate the accident and, more specifically, criteria used to delimit the Venezuelan border. Some deputies believe a plane cannot be downed at a border where no one knows its exactly location.

[Begin Deputy Joao Fagundes recording] There are many doubts about which country's national air space it was. Under international laws, Venezuela did not, does not have the right to commit this terrorist act against a civilian plane innocently flying over its territory. [end recording]

Deputy Fagundes also said he will request that the Chamber of Deputies file a transcript of the newscast material on the gold miners' plane.

Foreign Minister Comments

PY2701173792 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 1500 GMT 27 Jan 92

[Text] Federal Police Director General Romeu Tuma has said that the statements by the gold miners confirm that their plane was machine-gunned by the Venezuelan Army. Itamaraty is in contact with the Venezuelan Government, arranging the return of the bodies of the two Brazilians who died in Venezuela.

Acting Foreign Minister Marcos Azambuja has said that the body of pilot Jose Xavier de Mendonca should arrive in Brazil on 29 January. The body of the gold miner who was buried in the Parima mountain range will take a bit longer to arrive because there is no easy access to the region.

Itamaraty has not yet concluded whether the plane crashed or was shot down. Romeu Tuma said, however, that the gold miners' statement to the Federal Police confirms that the plane was shot down.

Azambuja said that Itamaraty must wait for the results of an investigation that is being conducted by specialized international organizations. He said that the video aired by Rede Globo confirms that the plane was hit by shots.

[Begin recording] [Azambuja] I think Dr. Tuma and I have several times repeated: There are strong indications that the plane was hit by shots. Now, if the shots caused the plane to crash, a very rigorous technical investigation will have to be performed. We have no doubt about the video, but we have not yet clarified the cause and its effect.

[Unidentified reporter] The statements made during the investigation prove that the plane was actually downed, right?

[Tuma] All the statements agree on that point. The gold miners involved in the case and the injured have all said that. I believe that Itamaraty should inform the Venezuelan authorities of this. [end recording]

Police Deny Entering Venezuela

PY2801010492 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2100 GMT 27 Jan 92

[Excerpt] Federal Police Director Romeu Tuma denied today in Brasilia that Brazilian policemen illegally entered Venezuelan territory to investigate the downing of a Cessna airplane 10 days ago in Serra do Parima, in which two gold miners were killed. The concern about Federal Police actions was voiced by Venezuelan Ambassador Sebastian Alegrett.

[Begin Tuma recording] The Brazilian policemen did not cross the border. We have good relations with Venezuelan policemen; we can have more direct contact if we need it. [end recording]

Tuma stated that the information gathered by the Federal Police is being sent to the Foreign Ministry, which will have to discuss it with President Fernando Collor. [passage omitted]

Collor's Government Restructuring Plan Viewed

PY2701222992 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 25 Jan 92 p 4

[By Maria Lima]

[Text] Brasilia—The objections raised by Economy Minister Marcilio Marques Moreira to the decision to restructure the Planning Secretariat, which is not under the jurisdiction of the Economy Ministry, have prompted President Collor to change the name of a new government body that will plan government policies.

Government House sources have reported that a bill will be submitted to Congress on 15 February, in which Collor proposes the creation of the Government Programs Secretariat, the Government Secretariat, and probably the Labor Secretariat, as a result of the dividing up of the Labor and Social Welfare Ministry. The move to divide this ministry has been decided, but its implementation depends on finding solutions to operational problems. Newly appointed Minister Secretary of Government Jorge Bornhausen has confirmed that the establishment of these new secretariats is being studied and may be included in the bill to be submitted to Congress on 15 February.

The Government Programs Secretariat will basically plan and coordinate overall government policies. It will be small, with only a few employees. It will be based at Government House and will be directly connected to the presidency. A high-ranking government source has stated that this secretariat will coordinate the activities of several ministries.

If it were to be called the planning secretariat, the new entity would create great confusion. Experts say it would undermine Economy Minister Marcilio Marques Moreira's prestige. Thus, to avoid friction with the economic area and necessitate changing the name of the Economy, Finance and Planning Ministry, it was decided to name it the Government Programs Secretariat.

The possible appointment of Antonio Kandir has spurred great negative reaction within the economic area. One presidential adviser has said that Collor would like to put all differences aside. He has never hidden his admiration for Kandir. Although he does not work for the government, Kandir continued to be close to the president by cooperating in special tasks. His appointment in the newly created secretariat would be the perfect opportunity to reinstate him in the government.

The presidential adviser said: Problems exist in all teams. Perfect harmony does not exist in any team. If Economy Minister Marcilio Marques Moreira were to

take the initiative of inviting Kandir [to join the government] one problem would be resolved, but no one wants to lose ground.

Another decision that has been made is to divide up the Labor and Social Welfare Ministry. Those responsible for this administrative reform are facing several difficulties. Among them is the need to reactivate the Regional Labor Offices [Delegacias Regionais do Trabalho] (DRTs), which were considered extinct and placed under the jurisdiction of the INSS [National Institute of Social Security] when the Labor and Social Welfare ministries were merged.

An adviser explained: "To divide up a ministry is a very complicated matter. Even the offices that housed the DRTs were expropriated or sold. Additional studies and careful planning must be done to overcome these difficulties."

The government also intends making changes in the education area. Studies conducted in the first year of the current administration recommend placing university education and science and technology policies under the jurisdiction of the Science and Technology Secretariat or under another ministry that will group these sectors. The studies add that elementary school, junior high school, and high school education, and the implementation of Ciacs [Integrated Center for Assistance to Children] programs should be placed under the jurisdiction of a different administration. A third proposal suggests placing each of these areas—university education, elementary school education, and science and technology—under individual national secretariats subordinated to the Education Ministry. Education Minister Goldenberg and the Federal Administrative Secretariat support this proposal.

Presidential Spokesman Claudio Humberto Rosa e Silva has stated that apart from establishing the Government Secretariat, he is not aware of any plans to change the current government administrative structure.

Passarinho Denies Disagreement With Spokesman

PY2701163492 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 25 Jan 92 p 6

[Excerpts] Brasilia—Justice Minister Jarbas Passarinho on 24 January sent a letter to the editors of the main newspapers in which he denies "any type of controversy" with spokesman Claudio Humberto Rosa e Silva. Passarinho showed a copy of the letter to the spokesman during the ceremony in which the new health minister was installed. The letter was written due to reports published on 24 January that commented on a harsh telephone conversation between the minister and the spokesman.

After praising former Minister Alceni Guerra and interim Health Minister Jose Goldemberg, the justice minister spoke with Rosa e Silva for three minutes. At the end of the conversation, there was a curt handshake. Passarinho began by saying that the ministerial changes had provoked speculation. "I am not attached, and have never in all my life been attached, to the post," the minister stressed, and he termed as "tommy rot" reporters' attempts to try and obtain a statement from him denying that his power as the political coordinator of Collor's government has been curtailed.

Regarding the misunderstanding with Passarinho, Rosa e Silva has said that "It is another lie of the little colleagues." And he is very certain that it was a "combined lie" because the newspapers published the same version of the episode. "Those who know me and Minister Passarinho know that we would not treat each other discourteously," Rose e Silva stressed. He summed up the episode as "another crisis that has been invented" with the Collor government. [passage omitted]

Trying to calm ruffled feathers, the spokesman said that "There is no doubt about each of our functions."

And the minister reacted with: "Then you are going to see all the dirt in tomorrow's newspapers."

Chile

Relations With Bolivia Called 'Harmonious'

PY2701210692 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 27 Jan 92

[Text] Bolivian Foreign Minister Carlos Iturralde has announced that Bolivia will resume its diplomatic offensive to hold new negotiations with Chile on its landlocked situation, following Peru's decision to grant Bolivia a duty-free zone at the Port of Ilo, south of Lima.

Although Bolivia will again resort to international forums, especially the OAS, Iturralde voiced his support for continuing bilateral talks as an instrument of understanding. He also noted that 70 percent of Bolivian products are being sent abroad through the Chilean ports of Arica and Antofagasta

Chilean Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma, in turn, stated from Valdivia that the agreement between Peru and Bolivia does not affect the talks between La Paz and Santiago, which he described as fruitful. Silva Cimma added that Chile has also helped Bolivia, and pointed out that relations with this country have been harmonious despite the fact that diplomatic relations were not maintained.

He noted that, during the past two years, the two countries have reached major agreements such as construction of a road linking Arica with La Paz, a right-of-way for the gas pipeline between Bolivia and northern Chile, and the Chilean decision to not suspend visas unilaterally. Consequently, the remark that Bolivia's getting an outlet to the sea through Peru does not affect Chile because those two countries can make sovereign decisions on what is most useful to their interests within the framework of their bilateral relations.

Official Views Impact of SFRY Crisis on Ties

PY2601020492 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 25 Jan 92

["Exclusive" interview with Yugoslav Government representative Svetslav Rajevc by unidentified "24 Hours" newscast reporter; place and date not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Reporter] [passage omitted] How did the Yugoslav Government react when it learned of the Chilean Government's decision to recognize Croatia's independence?

[Rajevc] The recognition of a unilateral and forceful separation deeply affects Yugoslavia's sovereign rights.

[Reporter] Does this harm Yugoslav-Chilean ties?

[Rajevc] I believe that this decision has an impact on our bilateral ties. But I do not think it will have such a serious effect.

[Reporter] The image Croatia reflects is that of a country being attacked despite its military inferiority regarding Serbia. This whole situation spurs a feeling of injustice about what is happening in Croatia.

[Rajevc] What you have said is true, but unfortunately this is an opinion that is based on unilateral reports.

[Reporter] Will the Yugoslav Federal Government accept Croatia's independence?

[Rajevc] The Yugoslav Government's position is to reject the independence of any republic while the negotiation process is not concluded.

Ministry Statement 'Deplores' Cuban Execution

PY2401172092 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 24 Jan 92

[Text] The Chilean Government regrets the execution of Cuban Eduardo Diaz Betancourt. In a communique issued today, the Chilean Foreign Ministry deplores the execution ordered by Cuban authorities.

It also regrets that the Cuban Government did not listen to repeated requests that it respect human rights and adopted an attitude that by no means contributes to the efforts the hemisphere is making to return to the democratic system, to fully respect human rights, and to fully enforce basic rights.

Socialist Party Supports Lagos for President

PY2701002892 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 25 Jan 92

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Just as occurred last weekend in Chillan during the PPD [Party for Democracy] board meeting, the PSCh [Socialist Party of Chile] national meeting in Talca has approved Ricardo Lagos' presidential candidacy. Lagos is said to be the left's best chance to win in the next presidential election.

The PSCh national meeting began on the morning of 19 January with a ceremony attended by over 300 party delegates, cabinet members, legislators, regional officials, and representatives from other political parties.

During the opening ceremony, PPD leader Erich Schnacke extended greetings on behalf of his party. A speech delivered by PSCh President Ricardo Nunez centered on the issue that with the disappearance of communism, socialism is the only political force promoting social change.

[Begin Nunez recording] As has already been pointed out in this meeting, we Socialists are certain that we have the best man to lead the second government of the Coalition of Parties for Democracy [CPPD]. We are convinced he will lead the CPPD to certain victory and that he is the best government leader we can have to project, through a program of democratization and change, the hopes that the people have placed in the CPPD. This is why I hereby formally request that this national meeting officially propose Ricardo Lagos to lead the CPPD party ticket. [applause] [end recording] [passage omitted]

MIDA Rejects Lagos Candidacy

PY2401172992 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 23 Jan 92

[Text] The Allendist Leftist Democratic Movement, MIDA, has rejected [Education Minister] Ricardo Lagos' possible presidential candidacy because they say he is a member of a government whose policies have continued and legitimized the actions of the military government.

Nicolas Garcia, a MIDA leader, said that Lagos' candidacy would be open to compromise. He said that it would not be an electoral option and it would not get as far as the presidential election. He made these remarks upon releasing an official communique of the leftist organization, which has no representation in Congress. He said:

[Begin recording] The MIDA believes that the candidacy of Lagos would not represent leftist groups. Rather, it would mean continuing a government policy that follows the Pinochetist economic model, which has legitimized Pinochet's parallel powers, and which lacks the courage to administer true justice and to punish those guilty of serious human rights violations. Candidates for the Coalition of Parties for Democracy represent a government that does not even implement its own program. [end recording]

During the second half of this year, the MIDA will hold a national assembly designed to approve a government program and to nominate a presidential candidate. Regarding municipal elections, the MIDA rejected the Municipal Organizational Law approved by Congress because it says that it does not consider the people's will.

The MIDA leaders said that their group already has candidates in 281 of the 335 municipal districts in the country and that 1,022 candidates for councilmen have already been nominated.

UDI, RN Agreement on Elections Reported

PY2401211092 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 23 Jan 92

[Report by Claudio Lefor at the National Congress in Valparaiso]

[Text] Right wing groups have concluded an electoral pact for the municipal election. The National Renewal Party [RN] and the Independent Democratic Union [UDI] this afternoon announced that they have reached a political agreement to undertake together the municipal election and that they are willing to establish a joint platform for the upcoming presidential and congressional elections.

The UDI and RN delegations to these talks, which were led by their respective presidents, consisted of congressmen and secretaries general of both parties. This afternoon they reached final agreement on the subject. RN President Andres Allamand described the agreement as being highly significant.

For his part, UDI President Jovino Novoa emphasized the significance that signing of the agreement has for the opposition:

[Begin recording] Today I can responsibly state that those sharing the values upheld by our respective parties nationwide may rest assured that the opposition is united and will act in unison. [end recording]

Allamand said that the agreement is significant for the opposition, not only for the present political time, but also for the future:

[Begin recording] We are certain that our agreement will bring about a new order of political relations between our party and the UDI, and thus it will effectively contribute to bringing opposition groups together. We are certain that the agreement is setting a new political stage in our country. [end recording]

The UDI-RN agreement provides for compliance with the municipal agreement signed a year ago, the establishment of a permanent mechanism for taking joint positions on significant topics, and the defense of the two-name electoral system [sistema binominal electoral]. The agreement has also established a political platform for the presidential and congressional elections.

The National Party and the Liberal Party have been invited formally to join the agreement. RN and UDI leaders have noted, however, that the Center-Center Union has not been invited to join the agreement because it does not consider itself to be an opposition party.

Marks 'New Political Era'

PY2401214592 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 24 Jan 92

[By journalist Rosa Alcallaga]

[Text] UDI [Independent Democratic Union] President Jovino Novoa has stated that the agreement reached with National Renewal Party marks the beginning of a new political era for the opposition.

This pact contemplates that of every six candidates for the municipal elections, two will be from the National Renewal Party, two will be from the UDI, one will represent another opposition party with congressional representation, and the sixth candidate will be appointed impartially.

Novoa stated that the two-name electoral system [sistema binominal electoral] functions well but, following the proposal to modify it, they are willing to evaluate the proposed changes and the two rightist parties will decide jointly.

[Begin Novoa recording] We have said that we wish to act jointly to establish mechanisms of consultation to evaluate the most important topics concerning the country's political sector. Constitutional reforms and constitutional laws were specifically mentioned. [end recording]

The UDI president indicated that the opposition has decided not to disagree in public—in spite of the legitimate differences that could exist between the two parties—because of the possibility of harming itself. He also indicated that the purpose is to propose a common presidential candidate and to participate in the congressional elections jointly and on an equal footing.

Regarding the number of town councillors per party, we consulted Andres Tagle of the UDI, who told us that the National Renewal Party would present 1,088 candidates.

Creation of 'Socialist Recovery Movement' Viewed

PY2701161692 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 27 Jan 92

[Text] Deputy Mario Palestro has announced the decision to create a Socialist Recovery Movement that seeks to recruit all those who disagree with the current line of the Socialist Party of Chile [PSCh].

[Begin recording] We have decided to create an organization known as the Socialist Recovery Movement of the PSCh. This movement basically seeks to provide a shelter for the thousands of comrades who are leaving the party to stay home or, regretfully, to join other parties. [end recording]

Palestro explained that many longtime PSCh followers have decided to leave the party because the current leaders have ignored historical accords on the PSCh ideological position within the Chilean left. He also

criticized the role played under this government by socialists, whom he charged with worrying more about their posts than about the rank and file. He also repudiated those who seek an alliance with the PPD [Party for Democracy].

[Begin recording] These people from the socialist right, including [Ricardo] Nunez, [Jorge] Arrate, and other gentlemen of the same stamp, have sought unity with the PPD for a long time. They are involved in an internal struggle in an effort to disintegrate what the PSCh has been since it was founded in 1933. [end recording]

Palestro noted that the attempt to merge the PSCh with the PPD seeks to end the PSCh and create a new center-rightist party like the Social Democracy. The Socialist Recovery Movement was created to struggle against this. It soon will release its line of action and the names of its leaders. Palestro said, however, that this movement does not seek to split the PSCh but to reinforce it.

Police Discover FPMR Arsenal, Make Arrests

PY2401195792 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 24 Jan 92

[By journalist Hugo Vergara]

[Text] A safe house containing a large number of automatic weapons belonging to the Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front [FPMR] was discovered early this morning by members of the Investigative Police in the municipality of San Bernardo.

The cache was discovered at 13,576 Central Avenue, (Duco) District, San Bernardo Municipality, during a raid by the Assault Division of the Investigative Police. Assault Division chief Edgardo Rebolledo said that the premises were used as a hideout for extremists. Rebolledo indicated that unidentified individuals kept a large number of weapons there. These weapons belonged to the FPMR.

He confirmed that some arrests have been made but did not say how many. It was later learned unofficially that at least two people were arrested. Meanwhile, neighbors have indicated that one person was taken away early this morning by members of the Investigative Police. The person is known in the neighborhood as El Rubio. He is about 1.68 meters tall, weighs 80 kg, has blue eyes, fair hair, and a beard. The neighbors also indicated that this man had been living in the district for about two years, and that he inhabited the house occasionally. He was always in the company of a woman who also visited the house occasionally.

At least five M-16 rifles tied up with thick nylon rope, one LAW rocket launcher, one RPG-7 rocket launcher, one Belgian FAL rifle, two 9 mm pistols, one (?Hechiza) shotgun, one RPG-4 rocket launcher, and one Belgian P-25 machine gun were found buried in the 6 square meter garden of the house.

Plainclothes policemen have indicated that during the next few hours a more detailed report on the investigation will be released. Police have also asked the court for permission to hold those arrested for a longer period of time.

Ecuador

Plan To Examine Peruvian Border Proposal Noted

PA2501043392 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 2300 GMT 24 Jan 92

[Text] An official report states that President Rodrigo Borja on 23 January toured several military detachments in the coastal province of El Oro on Ecuador's southern border with Peru. The tour included the president's participation in military maneuvers to place and dismantle antitank mines, and operations involving the use of armored vehicles and helicopters which, the source said, Borja piloted. According to the report, Borja was accompanied by Defense Minister General Jorge Felix Mena and several military officers.

Ecuador and Peru are involved in an old border conflict, and two weeks ago President Alberto Fujimori visited Quito with a comprehensive proposal to resolve the problem and make way for a broad bilateral integration program.

Ecuadoran Foreign Minister Diego Cordobez on 24 January told reporters that the Consultative Board of Foreign Relations, the government's top advisory body, on 23 January appointed a seven-member commission to examine the Peruvian proposal. He pointed out that the final report would be presented to Borja for the adoption of a final position.

Press reports state that Ecuador's response to Peru's proposal will be delivered by Borja when he visits Lima in June in response to an invitation by Fujimori. Official confirmation of this information was not available.

In September Ecuador approached Peru with the suggestion that they seek the mediation of Pope John Paul II to resolve the conflict, but the Peruvian Government rejected the proposal. On 10 January Fujimori suggested seeking the Vatican's expert opinion with regard to closing the border between the two countries, granting a free port to Ecuador in the Amazon, developing 37 joint integration projects, and increasing confidence among the two countries' military. Both countries agreed to have their military hierarchies meet on two occasions within the next six months, and Fujimori suggested that Borja seek reelection so that he can visit Lima and continue the talks.

In May the Ecuadoran people will elect the successor of Social Democrat Rodrigo Borja from among the 10 most popular candidates. According to the polls, the candidates with the greatest options are conservatives Sixto Duran Ballen and Jaime Nebot. The new government will take office on 10 August.

Paraguay

Croatia, Slovenia Officially Recognized

PY2801001192 Asuncion RPC Television Network in Spanish 2325 GMT 27 Jan 92

[Text] The Paraguayan Government today officially recognized the republics of Croatia and Slovenia as sovereign, independent states.

In a communique, the Paraguayan Foreign Ministry states that the recognition is based on the commitments made by the Croatian and Slovenian Governments to guarantee human rights and the rights of minorities residing within their territories, to seek solutions to conflicts through peaceful means, to guarantee regional and international security, and to observe the principles and rules outlined in the UN Charter and in other international instruments.

The government will soon make the appropriate announcements concerning the formal establishment of diplomatic relations. In addition to reasons the stated in the official communique, Foreign Minister Alexis Frutos Vaesken made the following remarks regarding the reasons that prompted the Paraguayan Government to recognize Croatia and Slovenia as independent nations.

[Begin recording] [Frutos] The main reason is the right to self-determination of all peoples, which is a basic principle observed by the Paraguayan foreign policy. Throughout history these two have met the classical concept of nations; that is, their residents live within their respective territories, speak their respective languages, with their traditions, histories, and customs. Thus, these are true nations.

Based on the principle of self-determination of all peoples we have decided to recognize these countries. Furthermore, the three other member countries of the Common Market of the South—Argentina, Uruguay, and Brazil—together with Chile, virtually the entire Southern Cone, have already recognized Croatia and Slovenia. The EC has also recognized them.

[Unidentified reporter] Does this mean that our country could establish diplomatic relations with these countries?

[Frutos] Of course. We will maintain diplomatic relations with these countries. We will possibly appoint a concurrent ambassador to these countries. We could do the same later with countries like Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, and the Baltic countries. We will make progress in this effort because it is in keeping with our policy and it is in the best interests of the government and people of Paraguay to strengthen our ties with other countries. [end recording]

Immigration of East European Workers Discussed

PY2701215392 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 27 Jan 92 p 10

[Text] Oscar Cabello, Foreign Ministry secretary for general affairs, said yesterday that "Paraguay is interested in receiving trained manual laborers for those tasks where there is a shortage. This would not represent competition for jobless Paraguayan manual laborers." He thus referred to a possible agreement with the EC on the immigration of workers from East Europe.

Cabello explained that nothing has yet been settled, adding that this issue was raised last year by the EC during his visit to Europe with Industry Minister Ubaldo Scavone. Cabello said he discussed this issue with Foreign Minister Alexis Frutos Vaesken, who has officially stated that there will be no problem welcoming these people provided they fulfill certain requirements.

Cabello said: "Nothing specific has yet been settled. We have merely held preliminary negotiations with EC members. The matter will probably be discussed at a higher level during the foreign minister's upcoming trip to Europe."

Cabello stated that the EC is currently promoting an immigration program for East European professionals and workers. These people were left without jobs following the closure of numerous obsolete state-run industries as a result of the recent political and economic changes. Since West Europe cannot absorb large numbers of workers, the possibility of settling them in other areas is being studied.

Regarding the requisites for the immigration of these workers, Cabello said that Paraguay is interested in receiving trained manual laborers because of the accelerated industrialization process that must be undertaken within the framework of the Mercosur [Common Market of the South]. He warned that this does not mean that jobs will be taken away from trained Paraguayan workers.

He added that the immigrants must know Spanish and that they will be subjected to a EC program that organizes workers groups and teaches them Western working methods which differ from the methods that they already know. He said that a subsidy will be granted until these immigrants adjust to the Paraguayan economic system.

If they are accepted, this system will increase the number of immigrants to Paraguay. In 1991, a total of 5,415 people immigrated to Paraguay, the majority coming from Brazil (2,188), Argentina (907), Germany (542) and Peru (335).

President Rodriguez Meets Colorado Party Leaders

PY2501195892 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish 25 Jan 92 p 7

[Text] Members of the Orthodox Traditionalism leadership met with President Andres Rodriguez and high-ranking military officers of the 1st Army Corps on 24 January. This Colorado Party faction seeks to promote unity to propose a consensus candidate during the upcoming Colorado Party internal elections.

The possibility to promote unity and the election of a consensus candidate reportedly were analyzed during the meeting.

It has been reported that the meeting was held at the residence of General Lino Cesar Oviedo, 1st Army Corps commander, and was attended by Luis Maria Argana, Autonomous Orthodox Traditionalism faction leader; Orlando Machuca Vargas, Unity and Agreement [Unidad y Concordia] faction leader; Eugenio Sanabria Cantero, Democratic Traditionalism [Tradem] leader; and President Rodriguez, who is the Colorado Party's honorary president.

It could not be determined whether Tradem leader Blas N. Riquelme and other political leaders attended the meeting. It has been reported that several military men were present but their names have not been disclosed.

The press had no access to direct sources because, according to the guard, this was a private meeting.

Denies Meeting Leaders

PY2501220492 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 25 Jan 92 p 10

[Text] In remarks made in Caazapa this morning, President Andres Rodriguez categorically denied reports disseminated in the past few hours of an alleged meeting with Colorado Party leaders at the 1st Army Corps. He stated the need for the Constitution to allow an officer to exert "effective" command of the Armed Forces. He pointed out that the "Armed Forces will always be subordinate to the political power."

Rodriguez denied meeting with senior officers and Colorado Party leaders last night. According to a report, Colorado Party leaders Orlando Machuca Vargas, Luis Maria Argana, Eugenio Sanabria Cantero, and Atilio R. Fernandez talked with the president and the military men about internal Colorado Party issues. Rodriguez said: "I met at the 1st Army Corps with some friends and comrades just to play tennis." He said that the rumors on an alleged meeting with those leaders were "completely" false.

Asked about the controversial issue of including the delegation of the Armed Forces' command in the constitution, Rodriguez said one should not refer to this as a "delegation" of the post. He said: The Constitution establishes that "the president of the Republic is the Armed Forces' commander. So that one cannot say that this post is delegated to a general officer, I will suggest—although it is not up to me to do so—that it can be stated that the president of the Republic is the Armed Forces' supreme commander, who is empowered to appoint a general officer who can discharge the specific duties of commander in chief, and who he will be able to discharge at any time." He said: "The commander in chief will be always subordinate to the supreme commander."

Rodriguez stated: "It has been said that the Armed Forces will be subordinate to civilian power starting in 1993. I can say that since 3 February 1989, they have observed discipline, obedience, and respect for the political power. I believe that they will continue doing so. I am sure that the Armed Forces will obey the political power, either civilian or any other."

Asked about whether he will accept an invitation from the Authentic Radical Liberal Party to talk about these matters, Rodriguez said: "It is not up to me to talk about them. I am generously expressing my viewpoint to you. Nobody will convince me even if we talk for hours or years because I maintain a firm position."

Rodriguez Sends Proposal to Constituent Assembly

PY2501193692 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 25 Jan 92 p 2

[Text] Colorado Party delegates Jose Ismael Candia and Celso Castillo at 1130 yesterday handed Constituent Assembly President Oscar Facundo Ynsfran the executive branch's draft for a new constitution.

Candia and Castillo had to resign their jobs at the Presidency's Liaison Office with the Chamber of Deputies when they were elected as delegates to the Constituent Assembly for the Colorado Party.

Article 141 of President Rodriguez' proposal states that "the president of the Republic is the supreme commander in chief of the Armed Forces, but he may delegate these functions to an Army general or to an officer of equivalent rank from the other forces. The president may replace this officer, who will have the post of commander in chief, when he deems it appropriate."

This proposal is similar to one sponsored by Colorado delegate Julio Cesar Vasconsellos, a member of the Armed Forces Subcommittee of the Colorado bloc at the Constituent Assembly. Members of this subcommittee met with senior officers a few days ago.

The presidential proposal also enables women to join the Armed Forces, thus heeding a petition made by women's organizations during the civic-military talks held last year.

The pertinent article states that all citizens "must render military and civil services to the nation to promote its development, defense, and preservation."

The article adds: "Military service is compulsory and those who have completed it will remain in the reserves.

Military service will be optional for women, whose progressive incorporation into the Armed Forces' exclusive activities both in time of peace and war will be regulated by law."

In his proposal, Rodriguez also endorses a current constitutional provision stating that the Senate can only pass laws of a military nature at the executive branch's initiative.

The proposal also empowers the president to appoint Supreme Court justices. It also gives him the exclusive power of calling a special session of Congress during the congressional recess, which is reduced from four to two months.

Candia said yesterday that the executive branch submitted its proposal through Constituent Assembly delegates because it was felt that this was the "most formal way" of doing it.

Upon receiving the proposal, Ynsfran described it as "undoubtedly a highly significant working document for the Drafting Commission (of the constitution), which already has received other proposals."

Generals Concerned

PY2401181792 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 24 Jan 92 p 4

[Text] Our country's military leaders are concerned about the possibility of a civilian becoming the commander in chief of the Armed Forces. They want the next constitution to clearly establish that if the president of the Republic decides to delegate the duty of commander in chief, a military man would be appointed. On the night of 22 January they met with the Colorado Party Constituent Assembly delegates, who are members of the Armed Forces Subcommittee.

According to the Constituent Assembly delegates who participated in the meeting, the military men expressed their concern about the issue of the delegation of the Armed Forces command.

According to the report, [Army Commander] General Humberto Garcete pointed out that the military leaders do not want a civilian as Armed Forces commander and "suggested" to the Colorado Party Constituent Assembly delegates the idea of maintaining a military man in command of the Armed Forces.

The compulsory military service issue was also raised. It was noted that, in principle, there would no major obstacles in reducing the compulsory military service period.

Gen. Garcete confirmed that the meeting was held on the night of 22 January, during which it was explained that it would be desirable for the president of the Republic to delegate the command of the Armed Forces to a military man.

The following delegates to the Constituent Assembly spoke during the meeting: Gerardo Sosa Argana, Julio Cesar Vasconcellos, Carlos Podesta, Efrain Enriquez Gamon, Carlos Romero Pereira, Ruben Melgarejo Lanzoni, Myriam Lopez, and Victor H. Paniagua, among others.

Present at the meeting were Army Commander General Humberto Garcete; General Eumelio Bernal, the Armed Forces chief of general staff; National Defense Minister General Angel Souto Hernandez; National Defense Under Secretary General Oscar Delmas; Aeronautics Commander Brigadier General Jose Cespedes; and National Navy Commander Vice Admiral Eduardo Gonzalez Petit.

Present at the meeting and representing the Colorado Party delegates to the Constituent Assembly subcommittee were: Julio Cesar Vera Caceres, Eligio Vargas Mendoza, Gerardo Sosa Argana, Oscar A. Delvalle, Agustin Segovia, Luis Castiglioni, Julio Cesar Vasconcellos, Carlos Podesta, Eduardo Rodriguez, and Carlyle Gauto.

Colorado Party Constituent Assembly Drafting Committee representatives including Carlos Romero Pereira, Ruben Melgarejo Lanzoni, Susana Morinigo, and Efrain Enriquez Gamon also participated in the meeting. Constituent Assembly delegates Myriam Lopez, Victor H. Paniagua, Abraham Esteche, and Mario Morel also participated in the meeting.

Opposition Leader Comments

PY2501211092 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 25 Jan 92 p 8

[Text] Domingo Laino, Constituent Assembly delegate of the Authentic Radical Liberal Party [PLRA], stated: "The president of the Republic, who was elected by the people, must be the Armed Forces' commander. This is established in the constitution drafted by the PLRA. I believe that this is very appropriate because it is essential for the chief of state to exert absolute control of the administrative power and the military forces."

He stated: "This does not mean that the permanent dialogue between the president of the Republic and the Armed Forces should be interrupted, but I think that the decision to delegate the power is an inadmissible step because the arms should be under the president's control."

Laino admitted that this issue can be discussed by all groups. "But what should be clearly stated is the government's right to command the military forces. This is the correct procedure under a democracy. There can be disagreements, and consequently we should listen to the opinions."

Asked about the military's decision to talk only with the Colorado Party Constituent Assembly delegates, Laino said that this is not a correct attitude because it is not in keeping with the current process. He said: "If the military men do not hold talks with the other parties, then

they are not going in the right direction because on several occasions they have promised not to get involved with any political party. If they decide to talk with all parties, we will have no problems accepting it. What military men should learn is that from now on they have to talk with the entire society and not only with a political party."

Finally, he expressed his hope that this incident was nothing but a minor episode within the significant task of drafting the new constitution.

Peru

Blacker on Foreign Ministry Changes, Other Issues

PA2801014892 Lima Panamericana Television Network in Spanish 1312 GMT 27 Jan 92

[Interview with Foreign Minister Dr. Augusto Blacker Miller by Roxana Canseco at the Panamericana Television studio in Lima—live]

[Text] [Canseco] Thanks for coming to the program. Dr. Blacker, we understand you have a heavy schedule today, so we appreciate very much your taking time to speak with us. Let us discuss the first point, the restructuring of Torre Tagle [Foreign Ministry]. Many publications, even those considered conservative, congratulate you and say that at last the day has come to stop talking and take action. We need to be pragmatic. Peru is a country that requires integration and development—integration is the basis for development. There are those, however, who insist that Torre Tagle is something that should remain untouched. Some people feel that Torre Tagle is a producer of great diplomats, such as Javier Perez de Cuellar. What do you seek to accomplish with this restructuring, Dr. Blacker?

[Blacker] We basically want to make the Foreign Ministry respond to the new challenges imposed on us by the world and to respond to the needs brought about by the structural changes made by this government to our economy and society.

[Canseco] What does this restructuring really consist of? It has served to remove a few old-timers [words indistinct]. We must admit that there are young diplomats who support this restructuring—most support this. Why?

[Blacker] Before replying, I want to say that nearly 100 percent of the Foreign Ministry's younger set favors the changes because they realize we are becoming updated with what is happening in the world. Obviously some resist the changes because they realize that these changes distance them even further from the possibility of keeping the status quo. I believe this is normal. I tell those who hold that position to change for their own good because the country is not going to wait for them; the country has to change for its own good and for the good of all its people.

[Canseco] What changes do you mean, Dr. Blacker? What does it mean in terms of foreign policy?

[Blacker] It means diplomats must be capable of responding with greater efficiency to world challenges. It means doing what we are now doing with Ecuador and Bolivia. It means having a policy that will help attain national goals. It means having a policy that will help the private sector find new business opportunities abroad. This is what is meant by modern diplomacy; a diplomacy open to the world.

[Canseco] Do you believe that traditional Peruvian diplomacy has fallen by the wayside? Should there be a new movement in diplomacy as the world understands diplomacy today—less protocol and more direct contacts?

[Blacker] The world is changing rapidly. If we simply hold on to the positions of the past, obviously we are not going to be able to respond and work with the world. This is what we seek.

[Canseco] No offense intended, but we have some former foreign ministers who feel—shall we say—offended because of this restructuring.

[Blacker] Those retired ambassadors who criticized the Foreign Ministry changes were working with a mistaken premise. They based their concepts on what was published in the newspapers—some newspapers—and did not check policy documents or documents on analysis and evaluation of the Foreign Ministry's position during the past two months. I am sure that if they carefully studied our position, they will realize that we are correct and they will support us. That is why I think this is all a matter of time and in the end I believe everyone will be happy and everyone will realize that this is for the country's benefit.

[Canseco] Dr. Blacker, there are a few who say that the foreign service law exists, that it has not been repealed by Congress, and that to disregard this procedure would infringe the law. Do you consider that this could prevent restructuring?

[Blacker] No. That is one example of incorrect information and interpretation. I will attend the Congressional Permanent Foreign Affairs Commission and there we will clearly demonstrate how our reorganization plans are well within the law and that they comply with the 1981 law. What is most curious....

[Canseco, interrupting] This publication mentions the 1978 law, which demands and guarantees a working diplomatic academy.

[Blacker] We never said we were going to close the diplomatic academy. Those are whimsical interpretations by some people. I believe that in certain cases they seek to sell more newspapers or magazines and not report facts and make rational or correct evaluations of what is happening in the country.

[Canseco] Dr. Blacker, to avoid confusion over what is taking place at the Foreign Ministry, namely its restructuring, do you think dialogue would be more useful than reading various newspapers, as there are differing views?

[Blacker] Not only are we in favor of dialogue, but we are holding a series of seminars with journalists, intellectuals, and other sectors to explain the very broad and deep changes. We believe that this is important and it is what we are doing.

[Canseco] You are scheduled to appear before the Permanent Foreign Affairs Commission. Dr. Javier Alba Orlandini seems to condition the trip of President Fujimori to Great Britain and Ireland to the results of your presentation before the commission. Is this possible?

[Blacker] Well, I think that when the members of the permanent commission are briefed on the objective of the trip, they will realize how important it is and how necessary it is to grant the president permission to travel.

[Canseco] What is the importance of President Fujimori's trip to Great Britain and Ireland?

[Blacker] The main point of his trip is to hold a news conference to define the position of Peru regarding the environment and the ecological situation of the world. I think this is very important because Peru must not only be recognized throughout the world as a country with serious problems, such as drug trafficking and terrorism, but it must be recognized as a country with progressive positions. Peru is seeking integration, as in the cases of Ecuador and Bolivia. We want to tell the world that we have something to contribute to the world on the environment.

Our country is the basis of the Amazon Basin. In this regard, we have the moral support of the people to adopt a position on the ecology. This is what President Fujimori wants to do in London the first week of February.

[Canseco] Will the President travel to Great Britain on 4 February?

[Blacker] We will be traveling on 4 February and will return to the country around 10 February.

[Canseco] Will you only travel to Great Britain?

[Blacker] Yes, we will only visit Great Britain.

[Canseco] Are you going to make a stopover along the way?

[Blacker] It is practically a direct flight to London so all meetings will take place in London. Apart from this meeting on the environment, the president will obviously meet with the highest authorities of Great Britain, such as Prime Minister Major.

[Canseco] You have mentioned the free zone that grants an exit to the sea to Bolivia, which is mutually beneficial for Peru and Bolivia. Will the free zone in Ilo be a indication of what could be a similar area on the Amazon for Ecuador?

[Blacker] Definitively. We want Ecuador to understand it this way. We believe it is very important for Ecuador to understand that Peru's intentions are positive, honest, and transparent. Our intentions are basically aimed at seeking the integration of our people, because we believe that by integrating we will better fight poverty and find social justice.

[Canseco] Ecuadoran Foreign Minister Diego Cordovez does not seem to understand the situation this way. He has said that Ecuador will not accept the Peruvian proposal.

[Blacker] We have adopted a position of prudence and restraint, because we believe that we must not make comments through the media. No. We want to wait for the official position of the Ecuadoran Government.

[Canseco] There has been no official position on this?

[Blacker] There has been no answer from the Ecuadoran Government. I think President Borja is analyzing this proposal with his advisers. I hope that when he comes to Peru for an official visit in June or July this year he will be able to bring us a broad and complete proposition to promote the two countries' integration process and to contribute to the search for peace, something both presidents want.

[Canseco] Has it been confirmed that Ecuadoran President Rodrigo Borja will visit Peru in June or July?

[Blacker] President Borja has accepted a visit to Lima in principle. He is currently trying to establish when his schedule will permit him to visit Lima. President Fujimori wants this visit to be lengthy enough so that President Borja may have an opportunity to better understand Peru. We think it is important that chiefs of state of neighbor countries get to better understand the process of change going on in Peru, that Peru is going through a process to be taken into account in the world, and that it wants peace and fraternity with its neighbors and everybody else, not confrontation, and definitely not war.

[Canseco] What should Peruvians do on 29 January, the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Rio Janeiro Protocol?

[Blacker] I think we should act very calmly, very prudently. We think that right now relations between Peru and Ecuador are improving, and we should do nothing that could hamper President Fujimori's efforts to bring our two countries together.

[Canseco] In other words....

[Blacker, interrupting] In other words, I think we should not make much noise.

[Canseco] Dr. Blacker, our callers insist on discussing the restructuring of the diplomatic service. They want to know when it will be restructured and if, in your opinion, all the ambassadors have thoroughly fulfilled their obligations. Or is this the beginning of a new phase on which

some ambassadors have not been able to embark? I am asking you what the people want to know.

[Blacker] The restructuring has been initiated. It is in motion. On 26 January some measures will be implemented to make this reorganization effective and to process the information we receive, from abroad, for example, in a more efficient fashion.

Regarding Foreign Ministry personnel, I would say that the diplomatic service, like any other human endeavor, has capable and less capable people as well as people who could leave tomorrow and no one would notice.

[Canseco] Incapable people?

[Blacker] Well, that's one way to put it. I think....

[Canseco, interrupting] Can you establish the percentage?

[Blacker] That's somewhat more difficult.

[Canseco, giggling] I know this is not very diplomatic, although it is quite like a journalist. Can you give us an estimate?

[Blacker] We are sure of something. In the past, several persons were named ambassadors who should never have been appointed as such. This has always been one of the big problems in the Peruvian diplomatic service.

[Canseco] You said new measures will be taken to speed up the diplomatic service's processing of information from abroad. What other measures does the government have in mind?

[Blacker] Some of these measures include preparing new diplomats to face the future. To give you an idea, horseback riding, tae kwon do, and dancing were part of the Diplomatic Academy curriculum until 1988.

[Canseco] Dancing?

[Blacker] Just imagine.

[Canseco] So the future ambassadors had to learn how to dance.

[Blacker] You see that this curriculum has to be changed if we are to tackle successfully what the world demands from us at present. Otherwise, we would be lost. This harms both the country and society.

[Canseco] What were the basic requirements for enrolling at the Diplomatic Academy in the past, and what will they be from now on?

[Blacker] For many years, the only requirement was a secondary school diploma. Later, a few years of university studies were required.

[Canseco] With some credits or something similar.

[Blacker] Yes, but a university degree has never been required, as it is commonly demanded in many other developing countries like ours. With the reorganization, we intend that only people with a university degree can enroll at the Academy. The purpose of this requirement is that the student can both have a good vision of the meaning of foreign relations and contribute specialized knowledge. This will make it possible for us to have better negotiators and representatives abroad. The country will be better informed of what goes on in the world.

[Canseco] Yet they will nevertheless receive training at the Diplomatic Academy.

[Blacker] Of course.

[Canseco] Will the Diplomatic Academy be closed down?

[Blacker] We never planned to close the Academy. We believe the school should be the official, logical means of entry into the country's foreign service. The idea is to change the emphasis on this academy so the training can be wider in scope, more specialized, and better.

[Canseco] What will happen to ambassadors? Will the diplomatic service be assessed?

[Blacker] We regard as very important that every person working at an organization, regardless of the organization's nature, be assessed properly. Otherwise, promotions would be made on a subjective, rather than objective, basis. We believe Peru should objectively study the human resources available so we can meet our national objectives.

[Canseco] Dr. Blacker, the public has specific questions that demand specific answers. Have examinations been suspended at the Diplomatic Academy?

[Blacker] We are planning to upgrade the academic program from a bachelor's degree to a master's degree in international relations. As a consequence, this year we suspended entrance examinations for the lower level. Second and third year courses will continue normally at the Academy.

[Canseco] Anyone hoping to enroll at the Academy usually had to wait many years, even decades, before reaching a certain level, such as ambassador, if he did not have friends or certain acquaintances. Let us be honest. We cannot say this happened in all cases, because there are excellent ambassadors. How can we avoid this and make efficiency prevail?

[Blacker] This should be our standard of assessment in all fields. This is the only fair way to promote people. We should promote them on the basis of their merit only. Unfortunately, this was not the case in the past. This is the situation we intend to correct. We believe the yearly evaluations, which we have already established in the ministry's reorganization, will make it possible for us to move in this direction.

[Canseco] Can you guarantee that the yearly evaluation will not be politicized?

[Blacker] It will hardly be politicized because we will try to make it through universities so there will be no doubt.

[Canseco] State or private universities?

[Blacker] Any of the two. There should not be any trouble. The important thing is that the examinations be honest to show that this is a fair and balanced process.

[Canseco] A caller just asked what criteria will be used in selecting the country where an ambassador will be posted. Can all ambassadors serve in any country?

[Blacker] No. I do not think so. That is something that took place a lot in the past. For example, a specific diplomat would be sent for a two year period to Egypt, then two more years to Bulgaria, then three more years to Japan. It was expected that he become a specialist in a specific region. Obviously, under such circumstances, it is very difficult to expect any person to have a deep and thorough knowledge of a specific area. What the person would have is a global perspective on a situation. What we plan to do from now on is to specialize our diplomatic representatives according to regions. As you well know, we have organized the Foreign Ministry based on three regions: the European region, Americas, and Japan and Southeast Asia. From now on, all those who are sent, for example, to Europe, will spend the rest of their diplomatic career working in that area. In this way, they will become true specialists in the region and obtain a thorough and complete grasp of the countries. This will also allow the person to obtain a more comprehensive knowledge of the customs, languages, and idiosyncrasies of the countries. In turn, this will provide us with more dynamic reactions to the realities in those countries. Our outlook will be closer to what really is taking place. That is what we are trying to achieve.

[Canseco] What will happen to all those ambassadors who have completed their duties competently all these years?

[Blacker] Well, naturally they will be promoted. They will receive all the honors and recognition inherent in their profession. They will also play a leading role in the changes we are determined to implement.

[Canseco] President Fujimori's travel schedule would seem to be quite delayed. What does the president's plan to visit several countries represent, Minister Blacker?

[Blacker] It means something I think all Peruvians have already come to realize, that President Fujimori is the best example of Peru's rejoining international affairs. If we are fortunate enough to be able to use him to explain what we are really trying to do in Peru, then we could not have a better opportunity. I believe we should all commend President Fujimori's efforts in undertaking these trips, which are not easy. Some of these trips require a lot of stamina. But they mean a lot to Peru.

[Canseco] When will President Fujimori travel to Chile? There are many expectations surrounding his trip to Chile because there are several unsolved issues related to the 1929 treaty, such as (?Mueller Erica).

[Blacker] President Fujimori will be probably travel some time after June. He already has his first six months schedule booked. In addition, we are currently starting negotiations to solve the pending issues of the 1929 complementary treaty. That is one reason why I plan to travel to Chile on 28 January.

[Canseco] You will be traveling to Chile on 28 January. Whom will you meet?

[Blacker] I will meet with Chilean Foreign Minister Silva Sima and with President Aylwin.

[Canseco] You previously mentioned that President Fujimori will be visiting Chile some time after June?

[Blacker] That is correct. We all hope this will be the case. In this regional integration effort, Chile is very important on our agenda.

[Canseco] Well Dr. Blacker, thank you very much for being here. Might you also visit Brazil and Colombia?

[Blacker] Most definitely. We have already established contact with Brazil and Colombia. We have already started to devise programs to obtain the same success as we have had with our other neighboring countries.

[Canseco] Will there be direct contact with both countries?

[Blacker] Absolutely, and we expect these contacts to take place this year.

[Canseco] Well your schedule is quite full. What are your recommendations for the 29th?

[Blacker] Relax.

[Canseco] No comments?

[Blacker] No. I believe it is important to remember certain historical facts but with a sense of the future, not looking at the past. It is important to keep in mind our new position, what we are looking for, and how each Peruvian must support the effort undertaken by the government and President Fujimori to achieve these objectives.

[Canseco] Thank you very much for being here. In addition, good luck during your appearance before Congress. I do not know why, but I think it will be very stormy. [chuckles]

Lima TV Program Views 'Dissension' in MRTA

PA2701215892 Lima Frecuencia 2 Satelite Television in Spanish 1400 GMT 26 Jan 92

[Discussion on dissension within the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement, MRTA, from the "Counterpoint" program; place and date not given]

[Text] Corruption within the MRTA [Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement] and Shining Path terrorist groups, disputes for control of money from drug trafficking, bank robberies, and extortion of businessmen will be the things that will finally result in the self-destruction of Victor Polay and Abimael Guzman's followers.

After many bloody vendettas between the mafiosi during the days of the dry law, any armed terrorist now feels strong enough to overthrow Polay or Guzman. Everything indicates that the reign of terror that Polay and Guzman imposed within their ranks is being defied and that those who disagree with this struggle have decided to do what they believe is best: No more booties for a few people; no more bank robberies that benefit a few; no more extortions for the terrorist bureaucrats living comfortably in Lima.

Terrorism is splitting, as we predicted three years ago on "Counterpoint." It will become a band of robbers or a group of city criminals, as in Colombia.

We have interviewed a terrorist who deserted Victor Polay's group:

[Begin recording of unidentified rebel] Divisions within the MRTA have been confirmed. On 25 January, the MRTA issued a communique announcing the expulsion of Cisero Garcia Torres, Commander Ricardo, who is accused of having links with drug trafficking and of trying to divide the group headed by Victor Polay Campos. Meanwhile, Commander Ricardo, in a letter sent to this station, confirmed his rebellion and announced that he has created his own group. In his letter, Garcia Torres accused the group headed by Victor Polay of immoral behavior. [end recording]

The news was heard with great interest and concern in San Martin, particularly in Tarapoto, a city that was previously known for its peaceful life and commercial and tourist growth but has become a battlefield for the MRTA. The forces in conflict are the followers of Cisero Garcia Torres, better known as Ricardo; and Victor Polay Campos, or Commander Rolando. This fight to death among terrorists has increased the climate of terror among the businessmen and population of San Martin.

[Begin recording of unidentified businessman] Who is going to invest now? As soon as you leave your house, you are robbed. [end recording]

It all began on 13 January 1992, with the circulation of a communique issued by the MRTA, accusing so-called Commander Ricardo of treason. The following day, another communique circulated in Tarapoto, signed by Cisero Garcia Torres, alias Ricardo, in which he publicly announced his separation from the MRTA. In explaining his resignation, Ricardo said that the MRTA national leaders are not honest. Specifically, he said that they are mean; they take advantage of the fighters to rob and to become rich. A third communique was issued, in which several MRTA dissident columns supporting Ricardo announced their irrevocable resignation from Polay's group.

With the help of a contact in Tarapoto, we went to Ricardo's camp. There were two requirements to get there: We had to travel as simple tourists and at a very high rate of speed in order not to be intercepted by Victor Polay's men, who are after the dissidents to kill them.

We traveled to Juanjui on a rough road, which has been abandoned for more than five years. Local authorities have not repaired or maintained the road. As there are no police or military patrolling the area, the rebels can freely enter the towns to ask for food, gasoline, and demand money from merchants and businessmen. During our journey, we were told that this part of the San Martin jungle belongs to the so-called Rodrigo Galvez Northeastern Front, headed by Nestor Serva Gardolini, known as Evaristo.

Then we had to walk a long distance. We could only film in places authorized by the MRTA guides, who had their weapons pointed at us. We could not film whatever we wanted.

Ricardo's men sought refuge in this area after the Juanjui attack on 24 December 1991, in which several policemen were killed and several public and private enterprises were burned and sacked. During that rebel attack, Nestor Serva Gardolini, alias Evaristo, took all the money—$80,000—and left in a light aircraft to an unknown destination. Since Ricardo and his followers did not get any money, they separated from the group.

After traveling on a very rough road for eight hours and going up some very steep hills, we arrived in an unknown place in the Peruvian jungle where Commander Ricardo's camp is located. According to a document we have, Commander Ricardo has abandoned the MRTA.

[Begin recording] [Reporter] Commander, why have you resigned?

[Garcia] We have abandoned the MRTA directorate due to its erroneous work methods and styles. Not only myself, but also several MRTA fighters, have abandoned all these methods, but not the MRTA's theories.

[Reporter] In your communique you speak of demoralization and division of the MRTA. Is that so, and why is it?

[Garcia] The demoralization is due to the bad administration by the directorate, which has become bureaucratized and leads the revolutionary war from the capital. They live as bourgeoisie in the best neighborhoods, in places we call (pitucos), and take the money collected as taxes. Many people have realized this. This directorate does not give explanations and has always acted as a dictatorship. Those who comprehend and understand the political situation, cannot continue to follow them as lambs.

[Reporter] Is Polay abandoning all his men, who are fighters like yourselves?

[Garcia] You could say that, because he is never seen in the camps checking the troops, or where the fighters are suffering hunger and making sacrifices. We support what Ernesto Che Guevara used to do. He left all the comforts to join the fighters, live with them, and see what the problems were at the fronts and, thus, create a genuinely revolutionary guideline. Besides, compatriots who criticize are mistreated, and the ones who do not follow orders from the directorate are rejected. We think this is an erroneous style or method.

[Reporter] Is Serpa Cartolini in touch with you directly? Is he the one who clashes with you the most?

[Garcia] As a member of the National Directorate, he controls the northeastern area. At this time, he has sent all his remaining forces against our detachments and has surrounded the area in order to capture and kill the main leaders of this group. He has not done this with the Shining Path or with the bourgeois army. Therefore, we call on the fighters of the MRTA to desist from persecuting us because, if they attack us, we will deliver a strong response, and they know how we can respond.

[Reporter] What have you become now? Dissidents?

[Garcia] At this time, we are coordinating with other political and revolutionary forces and other groups. We have an idea of a broader front, with broader tasks on a national scale. We can call ourselves an army, this is the embryo of a rebel army, of a people's rebel army. This does not mean that this is the definite name of the movement. [end recording]

The MRTA rebels headed by Cisero Garcia Torres have allowed us to film their command base, but they did not allow us to see their followers.

At this camp, which has a hut hidden in the jungle, the dissidents breed chickens, gather fruit, and grow vegetables to feed themselves. They read books by Mao, Lenin, and Che Guevara.

[Begin recording] [Garcia] We are not collecting extortions or taxes. We are asking for voluntary contributions—that is something else. He who wants to collaborate gives; and he who does not want to, does not. There are big bourgeois, big businessmen, and, we can say, big drug traffickers, or big businessmen who raised money from drug trafficking; we do demand a war tax from them. The war tax is very necessary in the revolutionary struggle. Those who have made money from the people or from drug trafficking must pay. They are not found in this region, they are found in the capital or other places.

[Reporter] By demanding money from the drug traffickers, would you not be working with them?

[Garcia] We do not demand money from the drug traffickers, but from big businessmen who have laundered money from drug trafficking. They have laundered the money and used it to start enterprises; those are the ones we are referring to.

[Reporter] It is said in Lima that there was conflict after the attack on Juanjui. It is said that Polay took $80,000. Is that true?

[Garcia] It is not an economic struggle, or anything like it, but a political problem. It is not a military problem either. What happened in Juanjui is that the fighters realized that Polay was not there, it was Evaristo. He was at a four-story hotel, according to him, directing the attack. When the attack was over, he took the money that was taken from the banks, he put the money into a sack, and took off on a small plane, leaving even the injured in Juanjui. That was an incorrect action for a commander.

[Reporter] Do you know anything about that money?

[Garcia] Nothing at all. Not a single fighter, detachment commander, or....[pauses] At that moment, the detachment commanders only received $1,000 for each detachment for a month. For that many people, $1,000 is not enough, and we do not know how the rest of the money is spent. We do not know who controls it or who it will serve. We do not know any of this.

[Reporter] Did you agree with all the destruction done in the area?

[Garcia] No. Maybe they got carried away during these attacks. The commanders got carried away. We cannot agree with the destruction of a hospital, or the whole structure of a hospital. If I had been the commander in that attack, I would have tried to replace, with the money from the banks, the things that were damaged in the hospitals or the infrastructure of some ranches that could be useful to the people.

[Reporter] Are you willing to lay down your weapons?

[Garcia] For the time being, we can talk about a dialogue. We could converse or dialogue but not lay down our weapons, because they are the only device we have to relieve this oppression.

[Reporter] I do not mean to offend you, but: What have you achieved by resisting for such a long time?"

[Garcia] We have achieved a lot of things. First of all, we have created expectations among the masses, the poor people, who live in misery. There are expectations for changes and transformation. [end recording]

The MRTA rebels are being sought by Polay's followers because they took new assault rifles, Yaesu radios, Instalaza rifle grenades, ammunition, uniforms, and backpacks.

[Begin recording] [Commander Pepe] Our directorate has committed a number of irregularities, and they have not been able to overcome internal problems. The division of the party, the MRTA, is not only in the northeastern front but on a national scale. We have made our decision because the channels within the organization have not worked, it has not been possible to use them. Even before we made our decision, they wanted to execute or annihilate us by using lies. We believe this should not happen in a revolutionary organization, and we do not agree with that position. [end recording]

In Ricardo's group, there are also women who are ready for anything.

[Begin recording] [Commander Blanca Nieves] We will not fight for them because they, the national directorate, will just continue to get rich. They will stay in their luxury homes while we, as followers, continue to fight. We said we would fight to the end, until we die, we must spill our blood, men as well as women, because we must defend our people. [end recording]

With this division in the northeastern front, the MRTA is slowly disintegrating. The commands that operated in the north—in Piura, Lambayeca, and Cajamarca—resigned from the national directorate due to lack of support. Those in the north—Chimbote, Huacho, and Huaral—headed by Orestes Torres Davila, aka German, did the same thing. Finally, the last terrorist commando operating in Puno and Cuzco, became inactive because the leader preferred to remain in the comfort of his home.

This situation has left many rebels without direction, and they do not know who to follow. Polay's men, headed by Serpa Cartolini in the northeast, are looking for Ricardo day and night to kill him. One of the MRTA patrols that navigates the Huayaga River is headed by Claudio, who is the rebel's political and military leader. Claudio was arrested by police in Iquitos two years ago, with other rebels.

[Begin recording] [Flavio Yerena Mendoza, former Iquitos police chief] This is the first capture made in Iquitos. It was lucky to disband this terrorist cell called Antonio (Pasates). Before this capture, no major subversive movements had been detected in this part of the country. [end recording]

On that occasion, Claudio was identified as Aquilez Ramirez De Souza, or Comrade Frank. The Judicial Branch released him due to lack of evidence and Claudio became a leader.

Other peasant leaders who had contacts with the MRTA in some way, such as Lucas Cachay, are receiving death threats. Furthermore, Andres Sosa, aka Madero, former leader of the Revolutionary Popular Bloc [BPR] was murdered on 25 January in Lima by an annihilation group, supposedly members of the MRTA. Sosa, as well as other commands of the MRTA, were accused of directing the disintegration of Victor Polay Campos' terrorist organization. Communist leader Andres Sosa, aka Madero, was the first to fall under the murderous bullets of Victor Polay's MRTA in Lima.

Sosa, the leader of the Communist Youth for many years, formed part of the Politburo of the PCP [Peruvian Communist Party] headed by Jorge Del Prado. Two years ago, Sosa decided to leave the PCP to form the Revolutionary Popular Bloc with (Jehu De Simmons) As we all know, (Jehu De Simmons) is the official spokesman for Polay's MRTA. On December 1991, Andres Sosa decided to form the Free Fatherland (Patria Libre) political movement, which was an alliance between the Popular Democratic Union, BPR, and the San Martin Defense Front. The Free Fatherland did not even last two weeks. Andres Sosa, Cecilia Oviedo, and Lucas Cachay, abandoned (Jehu De Simmons). Andres Sosa was shot to death on 25 January, and Polay's and (Simmons') MRTA is probably looking for Cecilia Oviedo and Lucas Cachay with the same intentions.